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SALAR
DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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US team to visit India on 25 Aug for trade pact

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

A United States trade delegation will visit India on 25 August for the sixth round of talks on a proposed bilateral trade agreement, an official confirmed on Tuesday. Both nations remain engaged in discussions to finalise an interim trade deal ahead of the 1 August deadline. This date marks the end of the suspension period for reciprocal tariffs introduced by former US President Donald Trump, including a 26 per cent levy on certain Indian goods. The fifth round of negotiations concluded last week in Washington between India's chief negotiator Rajesh Agrawal and Brendan Lynch, Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia. *—PTI*

Search ops after suspicious movement in J&K

JAMMU, 29 JULY

A search operation was launched in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Tuesday after a woman reported the suspicious movement of three individuals in the Rajbagh area late on Monday night, officials said. A joint team comprising the Indian Army, local police, and the Special Operations Group (SoG) is carrying out the search. The operation is focused around the Ujh river, a known infiltration route from across the border. Security has been tightened along the surrounding areas and the highway. Officials have urged residents to remain vigilant and promptly report any unusual activity to the police. *—PTI*

No tsunami threat as 6.3 quake jolts Bay of Bengal

BENGAL, 29 JULY

A magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck the Bay of Bengal at 00:11 IST on Tuesday, with its epicentre located at 6.82°N, 93.37°E, about 538 km south of Port Blair in the Nicobar Islands. The shallow quake, at a depth of 10km, was also reported by global agencies, with some estimating it at 6.2–6.5 magnitude. No casualties or damage have been reported. The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre confirmed no tsunami threat to countries around the Indian Ocean. The tremors were also felt near Sabang, Indonesia, close to the area devastated by the 2004 tsunami. Meanwhile, Delhi NCR will host its first mega-scale disaster preparedness drill, on 1 August. *—PTI*

Odisha primary school uniforms to turn saffron

BHUBANESWAR, 29 JULY

The Odisha government has announced new identity cards and uniform colours for primary school students, causing political uproar. The School and Mass Education Department has replaced the previous green ID cards with saffron ones, featuring a new slogan: "Bidyabanta Bidyarthi, Bikashita Odisha," instead of the old "Ame Gadhibu Nua Odisha." Mandatory on school campuses, the updated ID cards will include crucial student information like class, date of birth, roll number, phone number, and blood group. While the uniform remains largely unchanged, with blue track pants and house-coloured t-shirts, the saffron shift has sparked criticism. *—PTI*

No global leader stopped war: Modi

In LS, Shah says 3 Pahalgam terrorists killed

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday firmly told the Lok Sabha that no world leader asked India to halt Operation Sindoor. Responding to the debate on the Pahalgam terror attack, he said, "On 9 May, US Vice President JD Vance called multiple times. When I called back, he warned of a Pakistani strike. I told him clearly—if Pakistan attacks, India will respond with cannons to bullets."

Hitting out at the Congress, Modi said before asking why Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has not been taken back yet, the party must respond as to who let it go in the first place.

He lashed out at the Congress for "importing issues from Pakistan" and said the Opposition party is joining terrorists and their masterminds in shedding tears after the victorious Indian military action.

"Pakistan's airbases are still in ICU. The masterminds of the 22 April attack can't sleep. The world witnessed the strength of self-reliant India," he said, praising Indian-made drones and missiles used in the swift, 22-minute operation.

Home Minister Amit Shah confirmed that the three Pahalgam attackers were eliminated in a joint operation on Monday. Identified as Lashkar terrorists Suleman alias Faizal, Afghani, and Jibran, forensic tests matched their weapons to the attack. "Six forensic experts confirmed the bullet match on a video call," he said. Pakistani voter IDs and Pakistani-made chocolate were recovered.

Shah accused the Congress of echoing Pakistani propaganda, citing former Home Minister P. Chidambaram's remarks suggesting the terrorists may have been home-grown. "Instead of supporting our forces, the opposition sings Pakistan's tune," Shah said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India is ready to help Pakistan eliminate terror if it is incapable. *—PTI*

>>>More on Pg 3

PARLIAMENT
MONSOON SESSION
Opposition questioned the timing of Operation Mahadev. The 3 Pahalgam terrorists were missing for 3 months; incidentally, they were shot dead just a day before the debate in Parliament.

World leaders didn't condemn Pak: RaGa

Rahul dares PM to call Trump a liar

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

In a no-holds-barred attack, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi accused the Modi government of mishandling the Pahalgam terror attack and India's response, claiming not a single country condemned Pakistan for the killings.

"What does that mean? It means the world equates India with Pakistan," Rahul said, slamming External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for failing to secure global condemnation. Referring to Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir as the mastermind of the April 22 attack, he said, "That man was having lunch with the US President. What are we doing?"

Rahul took aim at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for, in his words, using the armed forces to protect his personal image. He challenged Modi to publicly refute US President Donald Trump's repeated claims that he brokered a ceasefire between India and Pakistan. "Trump said 29 times he got the ceasefire done. If he is lying, let the PM come to this House and call him a liar — if he has the courage of Indira Gandhi," Rahul said.

He accused the Centre of tying the hands of the armed forces during Operation Sindoor. "You sent our pilots across the border but told them not to hit military infrastructure — of course they were hit back. This is not a military failure; it's a political one."

He also criticised Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for revealing that India informed Pakistan's DGMO during the operation. "What kind of deterrence is this?"

Rahul warned that the government had failed to prevent the China-Pakistan nexus. "If you'd listened to me earlier, we wouldn't have lost Rafale jets. China was feeding intelligence to Pakistan," he said. On the government's stance of treating every terror attack as an act of war, he warned, "You've handed terrorists the power to decide when India goes to war." *—PTI*

THE PROOF THAT THEY ARE PAHALGAM TERRORISTS

- Security forces recovered Pakistani voter IDs of 2 terrorists. Chocolates made in Pakistan.
- Terrorists' identity was confirmed by those detained for sheltering them.
- Empty cartridges found at Pahalgam match the one M-9 and two AK-47 guns recovered from terrorists, said Shah.

RAHUL TO 'ADOPT' 22 KIDS ORPHANED BY PAK SHELLING

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi will adopt 22 children from Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, orphaned or left without breadwinners due to Pakistani shelling during Operation Sindoor. Their education will be fully funded until graduation, said J&K Congress chief Tariq Hamid Karra, adding that the first aid instalment will be released this week. The shelling killed several civilians, including 12-year-old twins Urba Fatima and Zain Ali, and young Vihaan Bhargav. *—Agencies*

THE BIHAR FILES

SC to step in if 'there's mass exclusion' in SIR

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

The Supreme Court on Tuesday warned it will intervene if there is "mass exclusion" of voters in Bihar's ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, hearing multiple pleas challenging the Election Commission's exercise, scheduled arguments for 12 and 13 August and asked petitioners to produce 15 individuals wrongly marked as dead.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioners, alleged that lakhs are being dropped from the draft list, set to be published on 1 August. Bhushan noted that the EC has claimed 65 lakh people did not submit forms and are presumed dead or permanently shifted, requiring fresh applications for inclusion.

Justice Kant stressed the EC is a constitutional authority expected to act lawfully, but assured the court would step in if wrongful exclusion is proven. Justice Bagchi added, "We are overviewing the process... If there is mass exclusion, we will immediately step in."

Sibal, representing RJD MP Manoj Jha, demanded the EC publish the names of the 65 lakh people. The court instructed petitioners and the EC to file written submissions by 8 August and appointed nodal officers from both sides.

On Monday, the court declined to stay the draft roll's publication, emphasising "en masse inclusion" over exclusion and permitting Aadhaar, voter ID, and ration cards for verification. The EC has defended the SIR process as essential for maintaining the integrity of electoral rolls by removing ineligible names. *—PTI*

SC sets 4 Aug deadline for BBMP poll plan

BENGALURU, 29 JULY

The Supreme Court has directed the Karnataka government to file a comprehensive affidavit by 4 August 2025, outlining a clear timeline for delimitation, reservation, voter list revision and other preparatory steps for long overdue BBMP elections.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing the state before a bench led by Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, confirmed that elections — last held in 2015 — are expected by November or December 2025, attributing delays to the Greater Bengaluru Governance (GBG) Act, passed by Cabinet but initially stalled by the Governor. He assured that 50 percent of preparatory work is already complete.

Earlier this year, Karnataka formally dissolved BBMP as a single civic body, creating five new municipal corporations: Bengaluru Central, South, East, West and North, each covering multiple assembly constituencies. The restructuring followed the 2024 GBG Bill amid Opposition walkouts, with the government asserting it would help address regional issues via decentralisation. IAS officer Maheshwar Rao has been appointed interim Chief Commissioner during the transition.

Critics including the BJP and JD(S) argue the GBG Act centralises power in the Chief Minister's office and undermines the 74th Constitutional Amendment's decentralisation mandate. A PIL filed in the Karnataka High Court, led by filmmaker T.S. Nagabharana, challenges the Act's validity and seeks an order to hold BBMP elections within three months. Civil society leaders warn the absence of elected corporators has created a governance vacuum. Election Commissioner Gadigeppa Sannabasappa Sangresh confirmed the Commission is ready to proceed with polls irrespective of the restructuring.

The Supreme Court has allowed petitioners to decide whether to keep the matter pending or dispose of it now, reserving the right to revive hearings if elections are further delayed. With the affidavit deadline looming, attention turns to whether the government will honour its promise of polls by year end. *—PTI*

3 arrested for planting gelatin in B'luru

BENGALURU, 29 JULY

Three individuals have been arrested following the discovery of a bag containing gelatin sticks and detonators at the Kalasipalya BMTC bus stand in Bengaluru, police announced on Tuesday.

The suspects, all from Kolar and employed at a quarry, were apprehended after six gelatin sticks and several live detonators were found outside a public toilet at the bus terminus on 23 July. Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh confirmed that a case was filed at the Kalasipalya police station after the explosive materials were reported by an Assistant Traffic Officer.

Commissioner Singh stated, "We have recovered 22 gelatin sticks and 30 live detonators from the three accused who have been arrested till now. A few more arrests have to be made. They are from Kolar and we have traced the place from where it was taken," adding that the investigation is looking into the suppliers.

According to investigations, the materials were allegedly transported from the quarry for minor borewell work, although this theory requires verification. "But it seems to be correct because the type and amount of gelatin sticks and detonators were very less," Singh noted, mentioning progress based on bus movements as a lead.

The investigation has seen substantial collaboration, with five teams formed to address the case, utilising inputs from informants and technical support. The operation was executed under the supervision of senior police officials, including Joint Commissioner of Police Vamshikrishna, and efforts to identify additional suspects are ongoing. *—PTI*

Uncertainty grows over death row of nurse in Yemen

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

Conflicting reports have emerged over the fate of Indian nurse Nimisha Priya, who is on death row in Yemen. While some media outlets on Tuesday claimed that her death sentence has been overturned, others quickly disputed the news, calling it inaccurate.

Priya, hailing from Palakkad district in Kerala, was convicted of murdering her Yemeni business partner, Talal Abdo Mahdi, nearly a decade ago. She allegedly injected him with sedatives in an attempt to retrieve her passport, but he died from an apparent overdose. She then reportedly hid the body in a water tank.

Originally scheduled for execution on 16 July, her hanging was deferred following sustained diplomatic and humanitarian efforts by the Indian government. Nimisha is currently lodged in Sanaa prison, under Houthis control.

Indian authorities are continuing their efforts to secure clemency. *—Agecnies*

MONITOR ICE DEFORMATION

ISRO begins countdown for NISAR mission

SRIHARIKOTA, 29 JULY

The 27.3-hour countdown for the ambitious NASA-ISRO NISAR Mission commenced on Tuesday, according to ISRO sources. The Indian Space Research Organisation's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F16) is set to transport the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) to a Sun-synchronous polar orbit, scheduled for liftoff at 5.40pm on Wednesday.

> **The NISAR mission will demonstrate Indian space engineering capabilities for Earth observation on a global scale. The satellite will transmit extensive data covering the Earth, including Antarctica, the North Pole, and oceans**
>
> —Radha Krishna Kavuluru, ex-ISRO scientist

It marks the 102nd launch from Sriharikota and is the inaugural mission for a GSLV rocket destined for a Sun-synchronous polar orbit.

The 51.7-m-tall rocket will lift off from the second launch pad, located approximately 135km east of Chennai. Following a 19-minute journey post-launch, the satellite is expected to enter its designated orbit at an altitude of 740km. Unlike previous ISRO missions that focused on Indian territory, NISAR will provide high-resolution, global data every 12 days. It aims to comprehensively monitor the planet's land and ice surfaces, marking a significant advancementNISAR is equipped with both L-band and S-band Synthetic Aperture Radar, enabling extensive imaging of land and ice-covered surfaces. *—PTI*

POWERING THE FUTURE

During a meeting with bankers, Bioenergy Development Board Chairman SE Sudheendra, said the upcoming bioenergy policy will draw Rs 1 lakh crore investment and generate 3 lakh jobs in the next 5 years
PHOTO: SALAR

HM: Dayananda won't be reinstated as Police Chief

Says, Vikash Kumar's suspension not revoked due to CAT case

BENGALURU, 29 JULY

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said that the former Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda, whose suspension has been revoked by the government along with three other police officers, will not be reinstated in the same position, and will be given a post equivalent to his ranking.

The State government on Monday had revoked the suspension of four police officers, including Dayananda, who were suspended in connection with the 4 June stampede outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium, which left 11 people dead, pending the initiation of disciplinary proceedings.

The government also revoked the suspension of Shekar H Tekkannavar - Superintendent of Police, and

G Parameshwara, B Dayananda

PHOTO: PTI

two State Police Service officers, C Balakrishna - Dy SP and A K Girish - Police Inspector.

However, the suspension of Vikash Kumar Vikash - Inspector General of Police, stands as proceedings related to his case are currently underway in the Karnataka High Court.

Vikash had challenged his suspension before the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), which revoked the suspension order on 1 July. The government has challenged the CAT order in the High Court, and the case is pending.

"(Vikash) had gone to CAT, hence he has not got (reinstated). In case directions come to reinstate him or any other directions, it will be considered."

Asked about whether Dayananda would be reinstated as the Bengaluru Police Commissioner, Parameshwara said, "He will not be given the same position as Commissioner. He will be given an equivalent post to his ranking."

To a question about whether it was a set back to the State government, Parameshwara, "How is it a set back? It (suspension) was our (government) decision.....suspension was an administrative decision, it has been revoked..... departmental inquiry has continued. Let's see what comes out." *—PTI*

Mallikarjun Kharge, DK Shivakumar ***PHOTO: PTI***

DKS backs Kharge's 'overlooked for CM's post' remark

BENGALURU, 29 JULY

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday defended Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's recent comments on being overlooked for the CM's post in 1999, saying there was nothing wrong in a senior leader expressing his emotions.

"What is wrong if Kharge expresses his feelings? He is a senior leader who has worked tirelessly for the Congress. He only conveyed his emotions," Shivakumar said. However, "one must express their feelings, but not in public".

Kharge's remarks, made at an event in Vijayapura on Sunday, have sparked a fresh debate within the party on leadership and the long-standing demand for a Dalit Chief Minister in State.

Recalling his role in the 1999 Assembly elections, Kharge said, "As CLP leader I tried to bring the party to power. The party formed the government and SM Krishna became the Chief Minister.

He had come (as KPCC President) four months ahead (of polls)....all my service was washed down the river. I feel that – I toiled for five years, but the person who came four months ago was made the CM."

Kharge was seemingly trying to make a point about Dalit leadership.

Meanwhile, Home Minister G Parameshwara said there is nothing wrong if Kharge wanted to return to State politics.

"He is the one who decides as to who should be the Chief Minister, being the AICC President. So, in case he wants to come back to State politics, no one should interpret it wrong, "Parameshwara said.

NOT BEING SIDELINED

Asked about whether he was being sidelined by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who convened a meeting with MLAs without his participation, Shivakumar, who is also the Congress State president, denied it.

"The CM is using his authority to hold meetings with legislators. I have no objection to that. He had received feedback from MLAs via Randeep Surjewala and is now acting upon it. I too have conducted meetings with some legislators, especially regarding Bengaluru development," he said. "I will hold a separate meeting with legislators concerned, as we have a different agenda for Bengaluru City." *—PTI/ANI*

LITTLE ROARS MAKE A LOUD NOISE

Students and volunteers dressed up and painted themselves as tigers to perform a skit as part of the International Tiger Day, in Bengaluru, on Tuesday
PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD

IIMB to host Venix 2025 summit from 1 August

BENGALURU, 29 JULY

The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) is set to host Venix 2025, its inaugural international business and entrepreneurship summit, from 1 August to 3 August. Venix is the result of merging IIMB's celebrated festivals, Vista and Eximius. This year's event features esteemed speakers including Shamika Ravi, member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India, KVS Manian, MD & CEO of Federal Bank, and Roma Datta Chobey, Managing Director Sales at Google India. *—PTI*

Poddar Plumbing to invest ₹758 cr in State: Patil

BENGALURU, 29 JULY

Poddar Plumbing System, a manufacturer of CPVC and UPVC pipes, has unveiled plans to increase its investment in the State to Rs 758 crore, up from Rs 492 crore. State Minister for Large and Medium Industries, MB Patil, confirmed the company's revised proposals following a meeting with Managing Director Deepak Poddar and Director Varun Poddar. The project, spanning 33 acres in the Vemagal Industrial Area (Phase-2), aims to commence operations by August 2026 and is expected to create 3,000 direct and 9,000 indirect jobs. The investment includes Rs 93 crore for land acquisition and Rs 593 crore for machinery. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X @sidsriram

Sid Sriram announces his 1st India Tour in 2025

BENGALURU, 29 JULY

Sid Sriram, a genre-defying voice that has redefined South Indian music for a global audience, will embark on his first-ever commercial multi-city India tour this November and December. Sriram will be performing in Bengaluru (22 November), Chennai (29 November) and Hyderabad (13 December). The tour is presented by Fat Angel & Zomato District. "These cities aren't just dots on a map. They're where I found my voice, fell in love with music, and experienced so many of my firsts. Every stage and every listener from these places has shaped the artist that I am today," Sriram said. *—PTI*

4 held for stealing 548gms of gold from City locker

BENGALURU, 29 JULY

Four people were arrested for stealing 548 grams of gold ornaments from a house and selling them. The Kothanur police have recovered a total of Rs 10 lakhs in cash from them, police said. The complainants lodged a complaint at Kothanur Police Station on 9 June stating that they had kept the gold ornaments in a locker in their room in January. In May they found that it was missing. Police summoned the complainant's niece on 27 June, where she then confessed to having committed the theft along with her friend. She said some of it was handed over to two friends, who melted them into gold bars and sold them. *—ANI*

M'rashtra releases 1 lakh cusecs of water into Krishna

BELAGAVI, 29 JULY

Five more bridges in Belagavi were submerged after Maharashtra released more one lakh cusecs of water from the Koyna and Varana reservoirs into the Krishna river on Monday night. In total, nine bridges have been submerged – four on Monday – and five more in Chikkodi, Athani and Raibag taluks.

With the threat of flash floods looming, Belagavi authorities have warned residents to stay away from riverbanks, while police maintain round-the-clock watch at submerged bridges.

Kudachi, the tallest bridge in Belagavi district and a vital link to Maharashtra, was among those flooded.

Bridges at Yadur-Kallol, Bhavanasoudatti-Manjari, Malikwad-Dattawad, Karadaga-Boj, and Kudachi-Manjari are now impassable, cutting off access to nearly 25 locations, including vital routes to Miraj in Maharashtra. With Kudachi closed, commuters must now use longer routes via Manjari or Darur. *—Salar News*

KCU to probe prof who forced students to wear hijab

KALABURAGI, 29 JULY

The Central University of Karnataka (CUK) in Kalaburagi district has launched an investigation into allegations that Assistant Professor Abdul Majid forced all second-year BA students to wear hijabs during an academic field trip conducted by the varsity to a mosque.

The university's Registrar, RR Biradar, has confirmed receiving a complaint from A Santosh, the general secretary of the Legal Rights Protection Forum, Hyderabad, on 26 July, 2025 in this regard.

Biradar said on Monday, "On 26 July 2025, I received a complaint from A Santosh, the general secretary of the Legal Rights Protection Forum, Hyderabad, against Abdul Majid, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Archaeology, Central University of Karnataka. He said that students in their second year of BA were forced to wear a Hijab to enter the mosque during an academic field trip."

Biradar added that the university will appoint an enquiry committee in the case, and action will be taken if the assistant professor is found guilty. *—ANI*

Lokayukta raids multiple govt officials

BENGALURU, 29 JULY

The State Lokayukta launched a series of raids on Tuesday at several locations linked to five government officials accused of possessing assets disproportionate to their known income sources.

Among those targeted were Jayanna R, Executive Engineer of NHAI in Hassan; Anjaneya Murthy M, Junior Engineer in the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Chikkabalapura; Dr Venkatesh, Taluk Health Officer in Hiriyur, Chitradurga; N Venkatesh, BBMP Revenue Officer, Bengaluru; and K Om Prakash, Senior Assistant Horticulture Director at the BDA Head Office in Bengaluru.

The Lokayukta officials noted the opulence of Venkatesh's residence in the City during their investigations.

A raid on Sunil Kumar, an Executive Engineer in the Health and Family Welfare Department, revealed excessive wealth in Kalaburagi. *—Agencies*

SIT begins exhuming of bodies in Dharmasthala

Members of the Special Investigation Team investigate the site of the alleged burial, at Dharmasthala, in Dakshina Kannada district. The witness claims to have buried hundreds of women and children ***PHOTO: PTI***

DHARMASTHALA, 29 JULY

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Tuesday began exhuming suspected human remains in a forested area near the Netravati bathing ghat in Dharmashtala, amid tight security following the allegations of mass burials.

The operation was launched in the presence of the complainant, who had earlier pinpointed specific locations allegedly used for illegal burials, they said.

Forensic experts from KMC Hospital, Mangaluru--Dr Jagadish Rao and Dr Rashmi--joined the team for the scientific recovery of skeletal remains, police said.

According to police, the site was identified during a preliminary inspection on Monday.

Under the supervision of Puttur Assistant Commissioner Stella Varghese and aided by a dozen labourers, the team initiated the exhumation process early Tuesday and went on till late afternoon.

The investigating team, however, did not disclose if they recovered any human remains. Personnel from the Revenue, Forest, Forensic, Anti-Naxal Force, Internal Security, and local police departments provided support and security.

Security has been tightened in Dharmasthala in Dakshina Kannada district, amid concerns over witness safety and possible tampering of evidence. The SIT was constituted by the State government to probe the confessions of a former sanitation worker who claimed to have buried hundreds of bodies, many of whom showed signs of sexual violence. *—PTI*

'WON'T BRING HIM BACK'

Pahalgam attack victim's family relieved after 'Operation Mahadev'

BENGALURU, 29 JULY

For the family of Bharath Bushan, who was killed in the Pahalgam attack, the news of the killing of the mastermind of the attack and his associates in 'Operation Mahadev' has brought a sense of relief.

26 people, mostly tourists, were killed by tourists.

Speaking to PTI videos on Tuesday, Bushan's father, Chennaveerappa, said "Hereafter, I think the government should ensure that no terrorists enter our land and kill innocent people... This should not happen again".

He said deploying army personnel at tourist spots could have prevented the attack.

In 'Operation Mahadev', the Army's elite para commandos on Monday gunned down Sulieman alias Asif, the alleged mastermind of the 22 April attack, along with two of his associates, in an encounter in Srinagar.

Security personnel during a cordon and search operation, near Dachigam in Srinagar district, Jammu and Kashmir, Monday ***PHOTO: PTI***

Bushan's brother, Preetham added that nothing could bring his brother back. *—PTI*

City to host Nobel laureates at Quantum India summit

BENGALURU, 29 JULY

- Nobel laureates Duncan Haldane and David Gross are set to attend a special dialogue on 30 July, in the forthcoming 'Quantum Capital'

The State is poised for a significant milestone in India's scientific landscape as the state prepares to host Nobel laureates Duncan Haldane and David Gross for a special dialogue on 30 July. This interaction precedes the inaugural Quantum India Bengaluru Summit, set for 31 July and 1 August.

State Science and Technology Minister NS Boseraju said, "Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, our government is laying the groundwork to position the State as India's Quantum Capital. This dialogue with Nobel Laureates marks the beginning of a long-term roadmap to integrate quantum innovation into State's development blueprint."

The City, recognised as the nation's innovation hub, aims to leverage quantum technologies for economic and social transformation. The Minister noted that the discussions will involve State's top officials, including Principal Secretaries of Industries, IT and BT, and Higher Education, focusing on advancing quantum research and collaborations with global experts.

"This underscores the international significance of the event.... Placing State at the epicentre of India's quantum revolution," he added. *—PTI*

City police register Ramya's complaint

BENGALURU, 29 JULY

A case was registered on Tuesday based on the complaint of actress Ramya aka Divya Spandana alleging online death and rape threats from actor Darshan's fanbase, City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said.

Cyber Crime Police Station, located within the Commissioner's Office (CCP), registered the case, he added.

"A deputy commissioner-level officer has taken charge of the case, and he will supervise the investigation," he said.

Ramya said trolls sent her death and rape threats after she posted on the proceedings of the Renukaswamy murder case in the Supreme Court on 24 July. Darshan is the prime accused. Meanwhile, superstar Shiva Rajkumar expressed his solidarity with Ramya, stating that "her stance is right". *—PTI*

PM's silence on Gaza 'shameful,' says Sonia

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

Sonia Gandhi, chairperson of the Congress parliamentary party, has described Israel's military actions in Gaza as "genocide" and criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "shameful silence" as a "cowardly betrayal of constitutional values." In an article for 'Dainik Jagran,' she urged Modi to speak out boldly, reminding him of India's legacy in advocating for justice. Gandhi condemned Hamas' attacks on Israeli civilians on 7 October 2023 but asserted that Israel's responses, including the blockade of humanitarian aid, have been "criminal." She stated, "It is our responsibility to acknowledge the grievous actions against civilians." She accused the Modi government of being a "mute spectator".—*PTI*

PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

SP cadre slaps maulana on TV for remark on Dimple

NOIDA, 29 JULY

In a shocking incident during a live TV debate in Noida, maulana Sajid Rashidi was slapped by Samajwadi Party (SP) worker Mohit Nagar following the cleric's derogatory remarks about Dimple Yadav, wife of SP leader Akhilesh Yadav. The confrontation escalated as Rashidi's comments sparked outrage among SP supporters. "It was impulsive behaviour in response to very disrespectful things that were said," commented an observer. The chaotic scene prompted a response from cops, who are now investigating the incident. Social media erupted with discussions on free speech versus personal accountability, with many demanding tighter regulations on televised debates. As of now, Rashidi has not issued a statement. —*Agencies*

Court adjourns National Herald case to 7 Aug

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

A Delhi court has postponed its decision on whether to take cognisance of the chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the National Herald case. The court will reconvene on 7 and 8 August for further clarification, having reserved its order on 15 July after concluding submissions on the cognisance aspect. The ED has charged prominent Congress leaders, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, along with other figures, alleging they conspired to engage in money laundering and fraud involving properties worth Rs 2,000 crore linked to Associated Journals Limited. The agency claims the Gandhis own 76 percent of Young Indian. —*PTI*

Kokate meets Ajit Pawar amid ouster speculations

MUMBAI, 29 JULY

Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate met with Deputy CM Ajit Pawar amidst growing speculation about his future in the Maharashtra cabinet. Pawar reportedly reprimanded him over his repeated controversial remarks about the farming community, which have drawn criticism towards both the Mahayuti government and the NCP. After the tense 15-minute meeting, Kokate expressed regret, assuring Pawar that such incidents would not occur again. However, the Dy CM did not guarantee any support. Kokate avoided comments to reporters as he entered the cabinet meeting, intensifying conjecture about his position. While a farmers' delegation from Nashik urged for Kokate's retention, Pawar countered, "How many times should one be forgiven?" —*PTI*

Who is responsible for safety, asks Oppn

Opposition MPs blame Centre's 'intelligence, security failure' for the Pahalgam attack

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

Opposition members in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday said that the Pahalgam terror attack was the result of a "complete intelligence and security failure" and alleged that the government was evading questions and hiding the truth.

Launching a blistering attack on both PM Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the "lapses," Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asked why there was no security in Baisaran.

"Did the government not know that over a thousand tourists visit everyday?"

People went there trusting this government, and it left them to the mercy of God, she charged.

"Whose responsibility is the safety of the country's citizens? Is it not the responsibility of this country's PM?" she asked while criticising Shah about not answering why the war against Pakistan was stopped.

When Shah can talk about Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and even my mother's tears during the debate, why not answer "why the war" against Pakistan was halted.

'Op Sindoor symbolise failure'

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav demanded accountability from the government for the "intelligence failure" that led to the loss of innocent lives.

Yadav said the government could not simply dismiss such lapses with vague admissions, asking, "Who will take responsibility?" He claimed the launch of Operation Sindoor in response to the attack symbolised failure, not strength.

Additionally, he said that India is becoming increasingly isolated, with no country standing by during Operation Sindoor. He accused the Centre of mishandling international relations with neighbours and warned that China is the greater threat to India.

He urged the government to withdraw the Agnipath scheme, arguing that border security requires long-term commitment. "This isn't the first time," he said, "but it must be the last."

DMK MP Kanimozhi condemned Amit Shah for focusing on blaming the Opposition instead of addressing security lapses, asking, "What has the Vishwaguru learnt?" and demanding accountability for repeated failures.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge cited J&K LG Manoj Sinha's admission of failure, and demanded that accountability be fixed at the highest level.

Speaking during the special debate, he questioned the PM's absence from the all-party meeting, criticising him for campaigning in Bihar instead. — *Agencies*

DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi blamed Union Home Minister Amit Shah for the security lapses that led to Pahalgam attack, during the Parliamentary debate on Operation Sindoor, in New Delhi **PHOTO: PTI**

HINDU VS BHARATIYA FIGHT IN THE TEMPLE OF DEMOCRACY

The Lok Sabha, the temple of democracy, witnessed an unusual and charged scene on Tuesday during the special debate on Operation Sindoor. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accused the BJP of using religion to sow a communal divide. She read out the names of the 25 Indians killed in the Pahalgam attack, saying, "They were not political pawns, but sons of this country. We owe their families the truth." As she read the first name, BJP MPs shouted "Hindu". Priyanka paused and replied, "Not Hindu, Bharatiya." A heated exchange followed, with chants of "Hindu" and "Indian" echoing across the House. - *Agencies*

NIA probes encounter of Pahalgam attack's mastermind

SRINAGAR, 29 JULY

A team from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) began an investigation into the deaths of Sulieman alias Asif, the alleged mastermind behind the Pahalgam terror attack, and his two associates following an encounter with security forces near Srinagar on Tuesday.

The NIA arrived at the Police Control Room early to identify the bodies of the three terrorists.

In a significant breakthrough, elite Army para commandos eliminated Sulieman and his associates, Jibran and Hamza Afghani, during 'Operation Mahadev' on Monday, triggered by a technical signal from a satellite phone used by the attackers. Officials stated, "Witnesses are being taken in batches of two to three to ensure absolute identification of Sulieman Shah." The operation continues as intelligence suggests further terrorist presence in the region. —*PTI*

China hasn't intruded into Indian territory since 1962: Rijiju

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

In a recent Lok Sabha session, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju stated that China has not "intruded even an inch" into Indian territory nor occupied any additional land in Arunachal Pradesh since the 1962 war. Rijiju intervened during a debate sparked by Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav's remarks on alleged Chinese encroachments in the state. "It is important to correct the record. Since 1962, China has not intruded even an inch into our territory nor occupied any additional land. This fact must be made clear," he emphasised. He also said that what China holds now was under its control before 1962 —*PTI*

After Tharoor, Tewari lashes out at Congress

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

Congress MP Manish Tewari on Tuesday evoked an iconic song from A Manoj Kumar starrer movie on X, as he shared a media report on him being "benched" by his party during the Operation Sindoor debate.

There had been intense speculation whether Tewari and Shashi Tharoor, both part of the diplomatic delegations sent abroad to convey India's stand, would speak in the Parliament during the ongoing debate on the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor.

Tewari shared the screenshot of a media report which stated that none of the leaders picked by the Centre to represent India found a place in Congress' list of speakers. Asked about his post, he said, "There is a saying in English - If you don't understand my silences, you will never understand my words." — *PTI*

Manish Tewari **PHOTO: ANI**

SC raps TN for stalling ex-min's trial

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

The Supreme Court expressed displeasure on Tuesday over the Tamil Nadu government "attempting to delay" the trial in cases involving former state minister V Senthil Balaji by implicating more than 2,000 people as accused in an alleged cash-for-jobs scam.

Describing the attempt as a "complete fraud on the judicial system", the SC called for listing all matters pending involving Balaji before it and posted the case for hearing on Wednesday.

The bench said, "We would like to know that besides the minister, who were the alleged brokers or middlemen? Who were the officers who acted on the recommendations of the minister? Who were the members of the selection committee? Who were the authorities who gave the appointment?"

Observing that the state's attempt appears to be aimed at ensuring that the trial proceedings are not completed during Balaji's lifetime, the bench said poor people, who were coerced by the former minister or his henchmen to pay for jobs, are being implicated as bribe givers and accused in cases related to the "scam".

On the same day, the SC stayed an order of the Allahabad High Court directing an MP-MLA court to proceed with the trial in two cases linked to former MLA and senior SP leader Azam Khan's son Mohammad Abdullah and issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh government on an appeal filed by him.

On 23 July, the HC had dismissed two petitions filed by the SP leader's son challenging the proceedings of two criminal cases against him. One involves Abdullah's alleged fake passport and the other is related to his two PAN cards, "fraudulently' acquired by his father on his behalf. —*PTI*

Andhra CM Naidu invites Singapore investors to state

SINGAPORE, 29 JULY

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has called on Singapore-based investors to join India's development initiatives during the "Andhra Pradesh - Singapore Business Forum and Partnership Summit Roadshow." Addressing over 500 investors, he outlined projects including the creation of Quantum Valley in Amravati and the establishment of an Arcelor Mittal steel plant and a Google operation centre in Visakhapatnam. Naidu emphasised the state's commitment to contribute 160 GW of green energy toward India's 500 GW target by 2030. —*PTI*

NCLT ALLOWS JAGAN'S PLEA TO CANCEL 'ILLEGAL TRANSFER' OF SHARES

HYDERABAD, 29 JULY

In a relief to YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the NCLT on Tuesday allowed a petition filed by the former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister seeking a direction to cancel the "illegal transfer" of shares held by him and his wife in a company to his sister YS Sharmila and his mother.

In the petition filed on 3 September, 2024, Jagan had sought the National Company Law Tribunal Hyderabad bench to cancel, annul and nullify the transfer of shares held by him and his wife Bharathi in the company and sought reinstating their names in Saraswati Power and Industries Pvt Ltd. "Jagan Mohan Reddy's petition has been allowed. We are waiting for the order copy. There are some directions also. —*PTI*

Bengalis targeted in Delhi? Mamata's claim sparks row

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has made fresh allegations on Tuesday that a Bengali-speaking woman and her child were threatened after reportedly being assaulted in Delhi for speaking their language.

The CM's statement follows a refutation from the Delhi Police, which described her claims as "fabricated" and "politically motivated."

Addressing the video shared in social media by Mamata, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Dhania said about the woman in the video, "During sustained questioning, the woman admitted that her relative, a political worker from Malda, had asked her to make the video."

He added that the investigation revealed inconsistencies and that the accusations were deliberate attempts to damage the reputation of the Delhi Police.

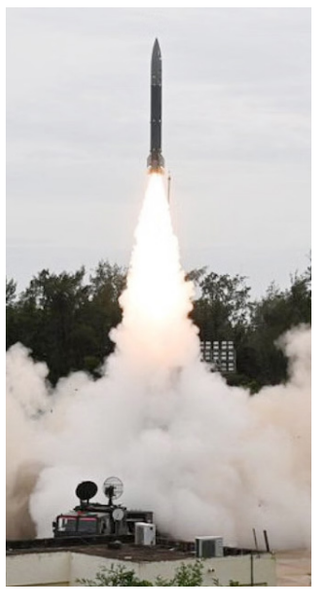
Abhishek Dhania **PHOTO: PTI**

Meanwhile, the TMC supremo urged Bengali-speaking migrant workers in BJP-ruled states to return to West Bengal, asserting that "all welfare facilities" would be available to them, including healthcare and education for their children.

Furthermore, the CM emphasised her commitment to defending the language, stating, "I respect all languages, but I will not accept any attempt to undermine the language of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam." —*PTI*

BOOST TO DEFENCE SYSTEM

DRDO conducts 2 successful Pralay missile tests in Odisha



Pralay missile **PHOTO: DRDO**

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

Giving a major boost to India's defence system, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted two consecutive successful flight tests of the Pralay missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha, the Office of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

An official statement from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said, "Defence Research & Development Organisation conducted two consecutive successful flight tests of the Pralay missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on 28 and 29 July, 2025."

The ULPGM-V3 is equipped with a high-definition, dual-channel seeker that can engage a wide variety of targets. It can be fired in plain and high-altitude areas, it said.

The flight tests were carried out as a part of user evaluation trials to validate the maximum and minimum range capability of the missile system. The missiles precisely followed the intended trajectory and reached the target point with pinpoint accuracy, meeting all the test objectives. All subsystems performed as per expectations, which were verified using test data captured by various tracking sensors deployed by Integrated Test Range (ITR), including instruments deployed on a ship positioned near the designated impact point, the statement said.

The missile is capable of carrying multiple types of warheads against various targets. —*Agencies*

Naxal killed, security personnel injured in Chhattisgarh

SUKMA, 29 JULY

A Naxalite was killed and three security personnel sustained injuries in an IED blast during an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Tuesday. A police officer reported that a joint team of Special Task Force, District Reserve Guard, and Central Reserve Police Force engaged in a gunfight with Maoists along the Sukma-Dantewada inter-district border. This operation was launched on Monday following intelligence regarding Maoist presence in the area, as noted by Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan. During the search, security personnel discovered the deceased Naxalite, along with significant cache of arms, ammunition, and explosives. Chavan said, "Three personnel belonging to DRG sustained injuries in a pressure IED blast during operation. All injured personnel have been safely evacuated. Their condition is currently stable & out of danger." —*PTI*

No conversion link: Kerala BJP backs jailed nuns

T'PURAM/NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

A day after Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai tried to justifiy police action against two Keralite Catholic nuns in that state, the BJP in Kerala on Tuesday rejected his statements, saying that they were not involved in any human trafficking or forced conversion attempts.

BJP Kerala President Rajeev Chandrasekhar said his party would make all possible attempts to release the nuns from jail and bring them back their home safe.

Chandrasekhar said the party state general secretary, Anoop Antony, is already in Chhattisgarh to coordinate the proceedings and clarify the matter with the authorities there, and he himself would go there if needed.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Congress-led UDF MPs landed in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday to meet the nuns.

Though forced conversion is a clear issue in states like Chhattisgarh, no such thing has happened in this particular incident, Rajiv Chandrasekhar said. "We are confident that they (nuns) have not gone there for that (convertions)," he told reporters here. —*PTI*

Vijay Sharma **PHOTO: ANI**

- Chandrasekhar said the party state general secretary, Anoop Antony, is already in Chhattisgarh to coordinate the proceedings and clarify the matter with the authorities there, and he himself would go there if needed

PHOTO: PTI

Andaman seeks heritage tags for four landmarks

PORT BLAIR, 29 JULY

The Andaman and Nicobar administration has proposed the inclusion of four natural landmarks in the islands for inclusion in the Tentative Lists of the UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS), Chief Secretary Chandra Bhushan Kumar said on Monday. Kumar said the administration is also collaborating with the Geological Survey of India (GSI) to develop them as geo-heritage tourism hotspots. Among these sites are Barren Island, which holds the distinction of being India's only active volcano. The mud volcanoes of Baratang, a geological rarity with the potential to evolve into wellness and eco-tourism attractions akin to South Korea's Jeju Island, and the natural bridge at Shaheed Dweep, a striking rock formation that draws thousands of visitors, are the other two sites. *—PTI*

4 foreign varsities get nod to open campuses in India

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

On the fifth anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the University Grants Commission (UGC) granted Letters of Intent (LoI) to four international universities to establish campuses in India. Three Australian universities—Western Sydney University (Greater Noida), Victoria University (Noida), and La Trobe University (Bengaluru)—will soon begin operations. Their programmes will span Business, IT, Cybersecurity, AI, Public Health, and MBA specialisations. The UK's University of Bristol also received approval to set up its first overseas campus in Mumbai, slated to begin operations in 2026. The Mumbai Enterprise Campus will focus on data science, AI, immersive arts, fintech, and interdisciplinary innovation. *—PTI*

Odisha man kidnaps, rapes minor girl in car

KORAPUT, 29 JULY

A 21-year-old man was arrested for allegedly kidnapping and raping a girl in a car in Odisha's Koraput district, police said on Tuesday. The family of the minor lodged a complaint on Sunday, claiming that the girl was missing, following which an investigation was initiated, Koraput Town Police Station Inspector-in-Charge Satyananda Patra said. Patra said the accused, under the pretext of offering her a lift, abducted the 17-year-old girl and allegedly raped her in the car. "The police rescued the girl and arrested the accused. He was subsequently produced before a court, which remanded him to judicial custody for 14 days," the police officer added. *—PTI*

AIIMS officer held for 'sexual harassment'

BHUBANESWAR, 29 JUL

A nursing officer at AIIMS Bhubaneswar was arrested for "sexually harassing" a woman attendant, police said on Tuesday. Accused nursing officer Nanu Ram Choudhury was booked under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, after a complaint was lodged against him at the Khandagiri Police Station in the city, a senior officer said. On Monday, the woman attendant at AIIMS Bhubaneswar had alleged that she was sexually harassed and attempts were made to outrage her modesty by the male nursing officer. Immediately after the registration of the FIR, all the employees, including the woman attendant, of various outsourcing agencies engaged in AIIMS Bhubaneswar, started a demonstration outside the main gate of the hospital, seeking action against the accused. *—PTI*

Godhra riots: Gujarat HC acquits 3 after 19 years

Judge cites lack of reliable proof; doubts accused's identity

AHMEDABAD, 29 JULY

The Gujarat High Court has acquitted three men, 19 years after they were convicted in a 2002 post-Godhra riots case, citing lack of reliable evidence.

Justice Gita Gopi, presiding over the matter, allowed the appeals of Sachin Patel, Ashok Patel, and Ashok Gupta, who had challenged their conviction and five-year rigorous imprisonment, handed down by a fast-track court in Anand on 29 May 2006.

"The learned trial court judge erred in appreciation of evidence. The conviction is not based on reliable and corroborative evidence. The identification of the accused has not been proved during trial," the High Court observed in its order issued Monday.

A file picture of the coaches of Sabarmati Express on fire at Godhra in Gujarat *PHOTO: PTI*

The case dates back to 28 February, 2002, a day after two coaches of the Sabarmati Express were set ablaze in Godhra, killing 59 people. The incident sparked widespread riots across Gujarat.

According to the prosecution, the three accused were allegedly part of a mob that gathered in Anand, damaging and setting shops on fire, in violation of an order by the district magistrate under Section 135 of the Bombay Police Act.

Out of the nine initially tried in the case, four were convicted for rioting, arson, and unlawful assembly under the Indian Penal Code. One of the convicts died in 2009.

The High Court, however, held that the prosecution failed to establish the accused's participation in the unlawful assembly or any acts of arson and damage. "None of their acts in prosecution of the common object has been proved during the trial," it concluded. *—PTI*

Flash flood kills 3 in Himachal town

SHIMLA, 29 JULY

Flash flood triggered by cloud burst wreaked havoc in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi town on Monday night, killing three people, burying more than 20 vehicles and inundating several houses, officials said on Tuesday.

Mandi received 198.6 mm of rain since Monday evening. It was so intense that gushing waters in city drains swept a huge amount of debris which entered several locations in about 5km radius and the worst affected was Jail Road, Saini Mohalla and Zonal hospital area.

The National Disaster Response Force, police and home guard have been pressed into rescue operations.

RAIN BATTERS DELHI

Meanwhhile, a 'red alert' was issued as heavy rain lashed the national capital on Tuesday, leading to waterlogging and traffic snarls across the city, with more showers expected later in the day

Areas such as ITO, Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road, Nehru Place, Kailash Colony Road, Dhaula Kuan, Naraina, Patel Nagar, Vijay Chowk, Jangpura, RK Puram, Lajpat Nagar, Talkatora Road, Azad Market Railway Underpass, Ram Bagh Road, Bhishma Pitamah Marg (carriageway from Lodhi Road), Zakhira Railway Underpass, Road No. 40, and many other areas were affected by traffic disruptions due to rain and waterlogging.

People walk on a muddy road following a flash flood in Mandi town of Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday *PHOTO: PTI*

- The National Disaster Response Force, police and home guard have been pressed into rescue operations

FLOOD-THREATS IN RAJASTHAN

Heavy rains in Rajasthan on Tuesday led to flood-like conditions in many districts, including Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Jhalawar, Kota, Pali and Sirohi, a MeT department official said. Due to overflowing rivers, gates of dams built on Chambal, Kalisindh and Banas river were opened.

TEESTA SUBMERGES NH-10

In the Northeast, movement of vehicles to Sikkim and parts of West Bengal's Kalimpong and Darjeeling districts was affected as the swollen Teesta river has breached its embankment at 29 Mile and submerged the NH-10, considered the lifeline of the region, officials said on Tuesday. *—PTI*

SC to hear on Prez's assent to bills on 19 Aug

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

The Supreme Court on Tuesday fixed a time schedule for hearing the Presidential Reference raising Constitutional issues on whether timelines could be imposed for dealing with bills passed by Assemblies, and proposed to start the hearing from 19 August.

The SC asked the Centre and states to file their written submissions by 12 August.

Asking them to adhere strictly to the timeline, the apex court said that it will first hear preliminary objections, filed by states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu, questioning the maintainability of the Presidential Reference on 19 August for one hour.

The top court said the Centre and the States supporting the Presidential Reference will be heard on 19, 20, 21 and 26 August, and those opposing it will be heard on 28 August and 2,3 and 9th September.

In May, President Droupadi Murmu exercised powers under Article 143(1) to know from SC whether timelines could be imposed by judicial orders by the President while dealing with the bills passed by State Assemblies.

Vikas Yadav's bail extended by 4 weeks

The Supreme Court also extended by four weeks the interim bail granted to Vikas Yadav, undergoing a 25-year jail term in the 2002 Nitish Katara murder case, to attend to his ailing mother. *—PTI*

SC collegium clears appointment of judges across 6 HCs

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

The Supreme Court collegium on Tuesday recommended the appointment of several judges in six High Courts, including Bombay, Calcutta Karnataka and Delhi.

The collegium headed by Chief Justice BR Gavai on Tuesday approved the proposal for appointment of judicial officer Vimal Kumar Yadav as a Delhi HC judge and three advocates as Bombay HC judges.

Similarly, the collegium also approved the proposal for appointment of Additional Judge of Karnataka HC, Justice Gurusiddaiah Basavaraja, as permanent judge. *—PTI*

Pune techie walks out of office meeting, ends life

PUNE, 29 JULY

A 23-year-old software engineer in Pune, Maharashtra, died by suicide on Tuesday, after abruptly leaving a meeting while at office.

The man, identified as Piyush Ashok Kawade, had been working at a private company in Hinjewadi IT hub since July, 2024.

Piyush, originally from Nashik, was part of a meeting, along with his co-workers, at Atlas Copco located at the IT hub when the tragedy happened.

Employed at the private company for over a year, he allegedly abruptly excused himself from the meeting at around 9.30 am before jumping from his office building, according to reports.

The 23-year-old also left a suicide note, addressed to his family, said cops. Police officials have launched an investigation, both into his death and the allegations made in his suicide note.

According to reports, in the suicide note found next to him, Piyush had expressed regret and despair with his personal life and feeling like a failure. *—Agencies*

Help is available. Please call Tele Manas at 14416, SAHAI at 080-25497777 for support

MEGA EVICTION DRIVE

Since 2016, at least 10,620 families have been evicted from government lands in Assam *PHOTO: PTI*

1,500 families to be hit as state clears forest land in Assam

GOLAGHAT, 29 JULY

A large-scale eviction drive is underway in Assam's Golaghat district to clear alleged encroachments on over 3,600 acres of forest land in the Rengma Reserve Forest along the Assam-Nagaland border, officials confirmed on Tuesday.

The state government's move is expected to affect at least 1,500 families. Authorities said around 11,000 bighas of land had been encroached upon in 12 villages, prompting notices and demolitions. Of the 2,000 families residing in the area, 1,500 were served notices. The remaining have Forest Rights Committee (FRC) certificates and belong to Bodo, Nepali, and Manipuri communities.

The eviction began in Bidyapur market and will extend to residential areas. Affected residents, mainly from the Muslim community, claimed they had been settled in the area by earlier governments to protect forest land from alleged Nagaland encroachment. They pointed to government-built infrastructure—PM Awas Yojana houses, Jal Jeevan Mission water supply, electricity, schools, mosques, madrassas, and churches—as evidence of state approval. Officials acknowledged that facilities were provided even after 2016, but could not explain why.

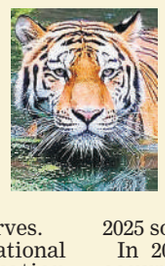
Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recently visited Uriamghat, stating many settlers came from districts such as Nagaon, Morigaon, Dhubri, and even West Bengal and Bihar.

Security has been tightened with CRPF deployment, while Nagaland has issued advisories to its border districts to prevent illegal crossings during the drive. *—PTI*

50% TIGER DEATHS OCCURRED OUTSIDE TIGER RESERVES: GOVT

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

More than half of tiger deaths in India since 2021 have occurred outside protected reserves, raising concerns about rising human-tiger conflict. Government data reveals 667 tiger deaths between 2021 and 2025 so far, with 341 (51 per cent) reported outside tiger reserves.



According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Maharashtra recorded the highest number of deaths outside reserves at 111, followed by Madhya Pradesh with 90.

Year-wise, tiger deaths stood at 129 in 2021, 122 in 2022, 182 in 2023, 126 in 2024, and 108 so far in 2025. Deaths outside reserves were 64 in 2021, 52 in 2022, 100 in 2023, 65 in 2024, and 60 in 2025 so far.

In 2023 alone, 34 deaths occurred outside reserves in Maharashtra. *—PTI*

6 Kanwariyas dead in J'khand crash

RANCHI/DEOGHAR, 29 JULY

At least six Kanwariyas were killed and 24 others injured on Tuesday after a collision took place between a bus with devotees on board and a truck loaded with cooking gas cylinders at Jamuniya Chowk in Jharkhand's Deoghar district, officials said.

The accident occurred around 5.30am near the Jamuniya forest under the Mohanpur Police Station limits when the bus collided with the commercial vehicle, they said.

"Eight of the 24 injured have been shifted to AIIMS, Deoghar, while the remaining are undergoing treatment at Sadar Hospital," Deoghar Deputy Commissioner Naman Priyesh Lakra said.

The wreckage of the bus which collided with a truck in Jharkhand's Deoghar district on Tuesday *PHOTO: PTI*

Earlier, Inspector General (Dumka Zone) Shailendra Kumar Sinha said the accident occurred after the bus carrying Kanwariyas collided head-on with the truck transporting gas cylinders.

Following the collision, the driver fell from the bus and the vehicle, without anyone behind the steering wheel, continued moving for some time and stopped after hitting a stack of bricks, the IG said.

The bus was severely damaged, he added.

However, MP Nishikant Dubey, in a post on X, claimed that 18 Kanwariyas lost their lives in the accident. *—PTI*

SLUSHY ROADS

Floods add to pain of MP's pregnant women

BETUL/BHIND, 29 JULY

Heavy rains have left many villages in Madhya Pradesh cut off from district headquarters, severely affecting emergency healthcare access. Two recent incidents highlight the crisis faced by pregnant women in remote areas due to flooded, slushy roads and poor infrastructure.

In Betul district, Sunita, a resident of Bod Raiyat village under Chicholi block, experienced labour pains on Sunday. With the Bhanji river flooded and no bridge in place, villagers carried her across the river in a bullock cart. A widely circulated video shows villagers pushing the cart through the water. She was later taken to Chirapatla Hospital and gave birth to a healthy baby.

Several parts of the district are flooded after the heavy rains

Her husband, Bablu Adivasi, credited the villagers' bravery for saving his wife and child. Local NGO Shramik Adivasi Sangathan warned of protests if the government fails to build a bridge over the Bhanji river by 15 August.

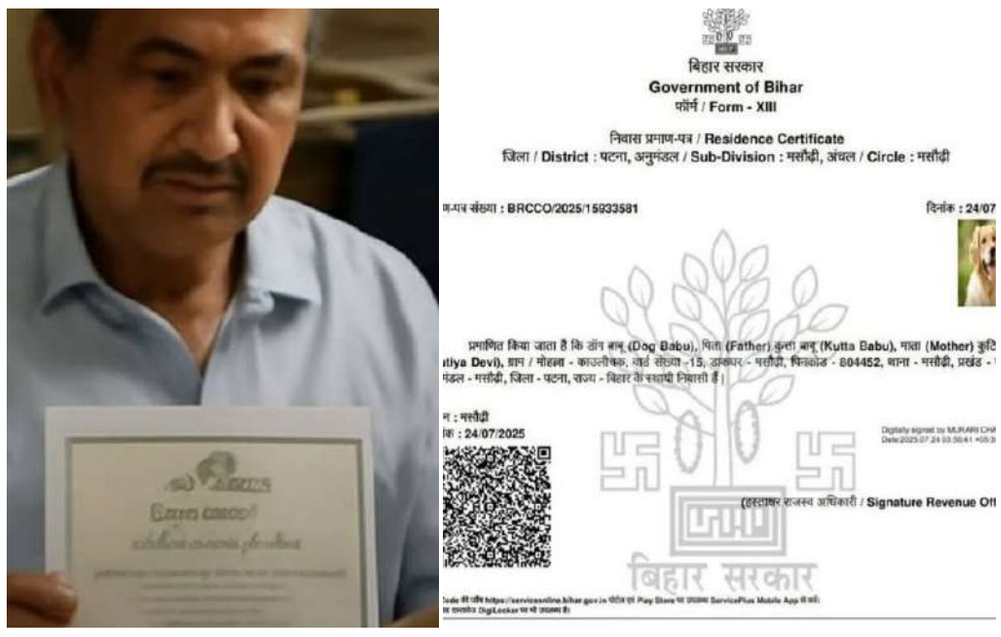
In another case, Chanchal, a Dalit woman from Barokhari village in Bhind district, was carried on a cot to an ambulance after the vehicle couldn't reach her due to slushy roads. Her home lies 60 km from the district HQ.

Zila Panchayat CEO Sunil Dubey promised an inquiry into departmental responsibility. He said gram panchayats face funding limits during monsoon. Congress president Jitu Patwari criticised the BJP government, sharing the video online. The BJP countered, saying rural roads had improved significantly over the last 20 years.

The IMD reports MP received 645.8 mm rainfall this season—54 per cent above normal. *—PTI*

CERTIFIED DOG?

A golden retriever named 'Dog Babu' was allegedly given a residence certificate in Patna. The certificate was issued through Bihar's RTPS portal and has the dog's image, address, his father's name 'Kutta Babu', his mother's name 'Kutiya Devi', and the Revenue Officer Murari Chauhan's signature. An FIR was registered by the Patna District Administration against the applicant, the computer operator and the officer who issued it. The administration also cancelled the certificate ***PHOTO: SCREENGRAB***



बिहार सरकार
Government of Bihar
फॉर्म / Form - XIII

निवास प्रमाण-पत्र / Residence Certificate
जिला / District : पटना, अनुमंडल / Sub-Division : मसौढ़ी, अंचल / Circle : मसौढ़ी

आ.पत्र संख्या : BRCCO/2025/15933581 दिनांक : 24/07

प्रमाणित किया जाता है कि डॉग बाबू (Dog Babu), पिता (Father) कुत्ता बाबू (Kutta Babu), माता (Mother) कुटि
tiya Devi), ग्राम / मोहल्ला - काउलीचक, वार्ड संख्या -15, अस्पर - मसौढ़ी, पिनकोड - 804452, थाना - मसौढ़ी, प्रखंड -
ंडल - मसौढ़ी, जिला - पटना, राज्य - बिहार के स्थायी निवासी हैं।

न : मसौढ़ी
क : 24/07/2025

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बिहार सरकार

1 year on, Wayanad continues to heal with grit and love

Last year, the morning of 29 July, was as normal as any other day for the people of Chooralmala and Mundakkai in this hill district.

Apart from the pouring rain, it was business as usual in this stunningly beautiful hillside, a highly sought-after tourist destination.

Everything changed in a flash the next day, on 30 July, and the once-favourite tourist spot became an open grave overnight.

One year after the most severe natural calamity Kerala had ever witnessed, Mundakkai and Chooralmala remain ghost towns, with only a few houses intact.

There are no people here, except for a tribal family of three, who still live in the area.

Though the wounds of this disaster -- which claimed 298 lives and wiped out everything that stood on the ground -- seem unlikely ever to heal, Mundakkai and Chooralmala also tell remarkable stories of survival, resilience, and Kerala's unity in the face of an unprecedented disaster.

With work on a township envisaged by the state government for the rehabilitation of landslide survivors progressing-- and with many complaints and political accusations being raised against it -- some stories of the survivors offer hope and reflect the resilience of the people of Wayanad in moving forward with their lives.

Naufal, who lost 11 members of his family in the landslide, is one of many examples from disaster torn Chooralmala.

Having lost everyone in his family, he has now started a hotel in Meppadi, aptly naming it 'July 30' in memory of the day he lost all his loved ones.

Naufal was abroad at work when the disaster struck, wiping away everything he had-- his family, his house, and the land he owned in Mundakkai.

He could not return to his workplace, as it was too much for him to overcome the trauma and leave the place where his family members were buried alive.

One year after the most severe natural calamity Kerala had ever witnessed, Mundakkai and Chooralmala remain ghost towns, with only a few houses intact ***PHOTO: PTI***

A similar story is that of five children who were orphaned in the disaster and are now gradually returning to normal life, pursuing their education under the Kinship Foster Care Programme, which allows close relatives to care for these children with government support.

Child welfare officers who frequently visit them say the children often recall their parents, with the trauma yet to fully leave them. However, they are becoming accustomed to their new caretakers and are happy at their schools.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, there were hundreds of requests to adopt these orphaned children.

However, the government decided not to place them for adoption, instead enrolling them in the Kinship Foster Care Programme so they could remain with familiar caretakers -- their close relatives.

Though many stories of survivors are inspiring, some reveal the cruel effects of disasters on human lives.

Before the disaster struck, Mundakkai and Chooralmala had a reasonably settled, financially sound community.

The people here, who once held decent land holdings, lost everything and are now unable to reclaim their land for construction, as the government permits only farming activities. This has turned many from wealthy to penniless in a single day.

The story of Annayan is one such example. Once earning an annual income of about Rs 25 lakh from his two acre farmland and the rent from buildings he owned, he now works as an autorickshaw driver for a meagre wage of Rs 200 a day.

He blames the revenue authorities for his present plight, alleging that all his attempts to reclaim his land for cultivation have failed.

"Either let me farm on my land and live, or acquire my land and give me compensation," is Annayan's request to the government.

Annayan had worked as a farm supervisor in a private estate before leaving his job to focus on his coffee farming and other businesses.

However, everything he owned was wiped out on 30 July, last year in the devastating landslide. Annayan says he has repeatedly approached the revenue authorities, requesting permission to remove the fallen trees and restart cultivation, but no such permission has been granted.

He now lives in a rented house in Meppadi and, seeing his struggles, some kind-hearted individuals have donated an autorickshaw to him.

However, Annayan was granted a permit to operate the auto only in Kalpetta town, 12km away from his residence.

One year on, Annayan still remembers the terrifying moments when he awoke to a loud noise.

"I woke up at 1.30am to a loud noise. We first thought it was a wild elephant. But then, suddenly, water began gushing in, breaking the sugarcane fence I had. Around 3.30am, we heard loud cries, and we realised many houses around us had been wiped out.

"My house was washed away in the second landslide. Eighty bodies were recovered from my land alone. Among the farmers in this locality, three others & I were the most affected," Annayan recalls. *—PTIt*

SALAR

Trump's tariffs could lead to layoffs, plant closures

As President Donald Trump prepares to announce new tariff increases, the costs of his policies are starting to come into focus for a domestic manufacturing sector that depends on global supply chains, with a new analysis suggesting factory costs could increase by roughly 2 per cent to 4.5 per cent.

"There's going to be a cash squeeze for a lot of these firms," said Chris Bangert-Drowns, the researcher at the Washington Centre for Equitable Growth who conducted the analysis.

Those seemingly small changes at factories with slim profit margins, Bangert-Drowns said, "could lead to stagnation of wages, if not layoffs and closures of plants" if the costs are untenable.

The analysis, released Tuesday, points to the challenges Trump might face in trying to sell his tariffs to the public as a broader political and economic win and not just as evidence his negotiating style gets other nations to back down.

The success of Trump's policies ultimately depends on whether everyday Americans become wealthier and factory towns experience revivals, a goal outside economists say his Republican administration is unlikely to meet with tariffs.

Trump has announced new frameworks with the European Union, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia and Britain that would each raise the import taxes charged by the United States. He's prepared to levy tariffs against goods from dozens of other countries starting on Friday in the stated range of 15 per cent to 50 per cent.

The US stock market has shown relief the tariff rates aren't as high as Trump initially threatened in April and hope for a sense of stability going forward. Trump maintains the tariff revenues will whittle down the budget deficit and help whip up domestic factory jobs, all while playing down the risks of higher prices.

"We've wiped out inflation," Trump said last Friday before boarding Marine One while on his way to Scotland. But there's the possibility of backlash in the form of higher prices and slower growth once tariffs flow more fully through the world economy.

A June survey by the Atlanta Federal Reserve suggested companies would on average pass half of their tariff costs onto US consumers through higher prices. Labour Department data shows America lost 14,000 manufacturing jobs after Trump rolled out his April tariffs, putting a lot of pressure as to whether a rebound starts in the June employment report coming out Friday.

US President Donald Trump has announced new frameworks with the European Union, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia and Britain that would each raise the import taxes charged by the US ***PHOTO: PTI***

The Washington Centre for Equitable Growth analysis shows how Trump's devotion to tariffs carries potential economic and political costs for his agenda. In the swing states of Michigan and Wisconsin, more than 1 in 5 jobs are in the critical sectors of manufacturing, construction, mining and oil drilling and maintenance that have high exposures to his import taxes.

The artificial intelligence sector Trump last week touted as the future of the economy is dependent on imports. More than 20 per cent of inputs for computer and electronics manufacturing are imported, so the tariffs could ultimately magnify a hefty multitrillion-dollar price tag for building out technology in US.

The White House argues American businesses will access new markets because of the trade frameworks, saying companies will ultimately benefit as a result.

There are limits to the analysis. Trump's tariff rates have been a moving target, and the analysis looks only at additional costs, not how those costs will be absorbed among foreign producers, domestic manufacturers and consumers. Also, the legal basis of the tariffs as an "emergency" act goes before a US appeals court on Thursday.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in an interview last week on Fox Business Network's "Kudlow" show countries were essentially accepting the tariffs to maintain access to the US market. "Everyone is willing to pay a toll," he said.

But what Bessent didn't say is US manufacturers are also paying much of that toll. "We're getting squeezed from all sides," said Justin Johnson, President of Jordan Manufacturing Co in Belding, Michigan, northeast of Grand Rapids. His grandfather founded the company in 1949.

The company, which makes parts used by Amazon warehouses, auto companies and aerospace firms, has seen the price of a key raw material — steel coil — rise 5 per cent to 10 per cent this year.

Trump has imposed 50 per cent tariffs on imported steel and aluminum. Jordan Manufacturing doesn't buy foreign steel. But by crippling foreign competition, Trump's tariffs have allowed domestic US steelmakers to hike prices.

The White House insists inflation is not surfacing in the economy, issuing a report through the Council of Economic Advisers this month saying the price of imported goods fell between December of last year and this past May.

Ernie Tedeschi, director of economics at the Budget Lab at Yale University, said that the more accurate measure would be to compare trends in import prices with themselves in the past and that CEA's own numbers show "import prices have accelerated in recent months."

Josh Smith, founder and president of Montana Knife Co, called himself a Trump voter but said he sees the tariffs on foreign steel and other goods as threatening his business.

Then there's imported steel, which Trump is taxing at 50 per cent. Until this year, Montana Knife bought the powdered steel it needs from Crucible Industries in Syracuse, New York. But Crucible declared bankruptcy last December, and its assets were purchased by a Swedish firm, Erasteel.

Smith beat the tariffs by buying a year's worth of the steel in advance. But starting in 2026, the specialty steel he'll be importing from Sweden is set to be hit with a 50 per cent duty. *—PTI*

LETTERS

write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Gangs and merchants sell food in Gaza after security breaks down

Since Israel's offensive led to a security breakdown in Gaza that has made it nearly impossible to safely deliver food to starving Palestinians, much of the limited aid entering is being hoarded by gangs and merchants and sold at exorbitant prices.

A kilogram of flour has run as high as $60 in recent days, a kilogram of lentils up to $35. That is beyond the means of most residents in the territory, which experts say is at risk of famine and where people are largely reliant on savings 21 months into the Israel-Hamas war.

Israel's decision this weekend to facilitate more aid deliveries — under international pressure — has lowered prices somewhat but has yet to be fully felt on the ground.

Bags of flour in markets often bear UN logos, while other packaging has markings indicating it came from the Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation — all originally handed out for free. It's impossible to know how much is being diverted, but neither group is able to track who receives its aid.

In the melees surrounding aid distributions in recent weeks, residents say the strong were best positioned to come away with food.

Mohammed Abu Taha, who lives in a tent with his wife and child near the city of Rafah, said organised gangs of young men are always at the front of crowds when he visits GHF sites.

"It's a huge business," he said.

Every avenue for aid is beset by chaos

The UN says up to 100,000 women and children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition, aid groups and media outlets say their own staffers are going hungry, and Gaza's Health Ministry says dozens of Palestinians have died from hunger-related causes in the last three weeks.

When the UN gets Israeli permission to distribute aid, its convoys are nearly always attacked by armed gangs or overwhelmed by hungry crowds in the buffer zone controlled by the military.

The UN's World Food Program said last week it will only be able to safely deliver aid to the most vulnerable once internal security is restored — likely only under a ceasefire. "In the meantime, given the urgent need for families to access food, WFP will accept hungry populations taking food from its trucks, as long as there is no violence," spokesperson Abeer Etifa said. In the alternative delivery system operated by GHF, an American contractor, Palestinians often run a deadly gantlet.

Israel's decision this weekend to facilitate more aid deliveries — under international pressure — has lowered prices somewhat but has yet to be fully felt on the ground ***PHOTO: X***

More than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops while seeking food since May, mainly near the GHF sites, according to the UN human rights office, witnesses and local health officials. The military says it has only fired warning shots when people approach its forces, while GHF says its security contractors have only used pepper spray or fired in the air on some occasions to prevent stampedes.

You have to be strong and fast

A man in his 30s, who insisted on anonymity for fear of reprisal, said he had visited GHF sites about 40 times since they opened and nearly always came back with food. He sold most of it to merchants or other people in order to buy other necessities for his family.

Heba Jouda, who has visited the sites many times, said armed men steal aid as people return with it and merchants also offer to buy it.

Footage shot by Palestinians at GHF sites and shared broadly shows chaotic scenes, with crowds of men racing down fenced-in corridors and scrambling to grab boxes off the ground. GHF says it has installed separate lanes for women and children and is ramping up programs to deliver aid directly to communities.

The UN's deliveries also often devolve into deadly violence and chaos, with crowds of thousands rapidly overwhelming trucks in close proximity to Israeli troops. The UN does not accept protection from Israel, saying it prefers to rely on community support. The Israeli military did not respond to emails seeking comment about the reselling of aid. Israel denies allowing looters to operate in areas it controls and accuses Hamas of prolonging the war by not surrendering.

"There is no policy of starvation in Gaza, and there is no starvation in Gaza," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday.

The situation changed dramatically in March

For much of the war, UN agencies were able to safely deliver aid, despite Israeli restrictions and occasional attacks and theft. Hamas-led police guarded convoys and went after suspected looters and merchants who resold aid.

During a ceasefire earlier this year, Israel allowed up to 600 aid trucks to enter daily. There were no major disruptions in deliveries, and food prices were far lower.

The UN said it had mechanisms in place to prevent any organized diversion of aid. But Israel says Hamas was siphoning it off, though it has provided no evidence of widespread theft.

That all changed in March, when Israel ended the ceasefire and halted all imports, including food.

Israel began allowing a trickle of aid to enter in May. GHF was set up that month with the stated goal of preventing Hamas from diverting aid.

Since then, Israel has allowed an average of about 70 trucks a day, compared to the 500-600 the UN says are needed. The military said Saturday it would allow more trucks in — 180 entered Sunday — and international airdrops have resumed, which aid organizations say are largely ineffective.

Meanwhile, food distribution continues to be plagued by chaos and violence, as seen near GHF sites or around UN trucks. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

Indian-origin pilot faces child sex abuse charge in US

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

An Indian-origin Delta Airlines pilot has been arrested at San Francisco International Airport, connected to a deeply concerning case of alleged child sexual abuse. Rustom Bhagwagar, 34, of Florida, was detained immediately after landing while co-piloting Delta Flight 2809 from Minneapolis. The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office reported that an investigation began in April 2025 after a report of child sexual abuse. An arrest warrant was issued for Bhagwagar, a commercial airline pilot. Witnesses described a "shocking and unnerving" scene as over 10 armed law enforcement agents, including personnel from Homeland Security Investigations and individuals claiming to be air marshals, boarded the aircraft. *—Agencies*

London stabbings kill two, several hospitalised

LONDON, 29 JULY

A stabbing incident at a business in Southwark, central London, on Monday resulted in the deaths of two men and left two others, including the suspect hospitalised, according to the police. A 58-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene, while a 27-year-old succumbed to his injuries later in hospital, according to the Metropolitan Police. The assailant, a man in his 30s, has been arrested but is currently in a life-threatening condition, police confirmed. Another injured man, whose condition is not life-threatening, is expected to survive. The cops said the attack is not believed to be terror-related. However, authorities have not disclosed any details about the business involved or potential motives behind the attack. *—PTI*

Ciara amid slave descendants to get Benin citizenship

DAKAR, 29 JULY

US singer Ciara has officially become a citizen of Benin, one of the first public figures to benefit from a newly enacted law granting citizenship to descendants of enslaved individuals. At a ceremony on Saturday, Justice Minister Yvon Détchénou remarked, "By legally recognizing these children of Africa, Benin is healing a historical wound. It is an act of justice, but also one of belonging and hope." Benin's citizenship law, passed in September, allows applicants over 18 to trace their ancestry to the transatlantic slave trade, promoting reconciliation with its past. The government also encourages "memorial tourism" at sites like the Slave Route and the Door of No Return. *—PTI*

Colombia's Uribe convicted of witness tampering

BOGOTÁ, 29 JULY

Former Colombian President Álvaro Uribe has been convicted of witness tampering and bribery in a landmark trial that could mar his legacy. The ruling followed a nearly six-month court case where prosecutors demonstrated Uribe's efforts to influence witnesses linked to paramilitary groups from the 1990s. Uribe, 73, watched the verdict from his home near Medellín but was not present in court; he stands to face up to 12 years in prison, although a sentencing hearing remains pending, and he is expected to appeal. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio commented, "Uribe's only crime has been to tirelessly fight and defend his homeland," while Colombian President Gustavo Petro defended the ruling, asserting that "a strong justice system" is vital for Colombia. *—PTI*

'Almost' a famine in Gaza: UN monitor

France urges EU to act tougher on Israel

A severely malnourished girl in Gaza PHOTO: UN NEWS

ALL THESE 3 CONDITIONS NEED TO BE MET FOR A FAMINE TO BE DECLARED

- **20%** of households have an extreme lack of food, or are essentially starving
- **30%** of children 6 months to 5 years old suffer from acute malnutrition or wasting
- **2** people or four children under 5 per 10,000 are dying daily due to starvation

TEL AVIV/ UNITED NATIONS, 29 JULY

The "worst-case scenario of famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip," the leading international authority on food crises said in a new alert Tuesday, predicting "widespread death" without immediate action.

The alert, still short of a formal famine declaration, follows an outcry over images of emaciated children in Gaza and reports of dozens of hunger-related deaths after nearly 22 months of war.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a UN backed monitor, said Gaza has teetered on the brink of famine for two years, but recent developments have "dramatically worsened" the situation, including "increasingly stringent blockades" by Israel.

"Food diversity has collapsed to its worst level since the start of the conflict," the report said. "While some households are not eating anything for an entire day, those who are eating are often surviving on only basic foods like bread"

The IPC has only declared famine a few times — in Somalia in 2011, South Sudan in 2017 and 2020, and parts of Sudan's western Darfur region last year.

But independent experts say they don't need a formal declaration to know what they're seeing in Gaza.

Meanwhile, France called on the European Union to pressure Israel to agree to a two-state solution with the Palestinians, days after pledging to recognise Palestine as a state.

Jean-Noël Barrot, the French Foreign Minister, told reporters at the UN that while there is international consensus that the time for a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is now, world powers need to back up their words with actions.

During the meeting, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "Only a political, two-state solution will help respond to the legitimate aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace and security. There is no alternative".

Meanwhile, Germany announced that an immediate air bridge to deliver aid to Gaza. *—PTI with agencies*

Israel kills 80 in Gaza; aid seekers among dead

DEIR AL-BALAH, 29 JULY

Israeli strikes or gunfire killed at least 78 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip on Monday, including a pregnant woman whose baby was delivered after her death but also died, local health officials said. At least 25 were killed while seeking aid from a truck convoy.

The baby girl died hours after being delivered in a complex emergency cesarean. She had been placed in an incubator and was breathing with assistance from a ventilator.

Her mother, Soad al-Shaer, who had been seven months pregnant with her, was among 12 Palestinians killed in an Israeli airstrike on a house and tents in the Muwasi area of Khan Younis.

Another strike hit a house in Khan Younis, killing at least 11 people. At least five others were killed in strikes elsewhere in Gaza, according to other hospitals. *—PTI*

Villagers unload supplies from a truck at Wat Phnom Kamboar in Oddar Meanchey province of Cambodia on Sunday PHOTO: PTI

Thailand–Cambodia ceasefire holds as villagers return home

SURIN, 29 JULY

A ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia appeared to hold Tuesday as tensions lingered despite a truce agreement to end deadly border clashes following economic pressure from the US.

The ceasefire that was reached in Malaysia was supposed to take effect at midnight, but was quickly tested. The Thai army accused Cambodia of launching attacks in multiple areas early Tuesday, but Cambodia said there was no firing in any location.

The Thai army later said fighting had stopped after military commanders along the border from both sides met. They agreed to halt troop movements, avoid escalation and establish coordination teams ahead of a joint border committee meeting in Cambodia on 4 August, army spokesman Major General Winthai Suvaree said.

Cambodian Defence Minister Tea Seiha said he spoke to his Thai counterpart about "incidents" that occurred during the implementation of the ceasefire but stressed the Cambodian army abided by the truce.

- Cambodian Minister Tea Seiha said he spoke to his Thai counterpart about 'incidents' during the the ceasefire but stressed the Cambodian army abided by the truce

Along the border, there were signs of calm with some of the more than 260,000 people displaced by the fighting returning to their homes.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet also called US President Donald Trump and thanked him for the peace move. Trump also called Thai acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai and said that the two nations could now favourably negotiate tariffs. *—PTI*

Kim-Trump ties 'not bad' but won't surrender nukes: N Korea

SEOUL, 29 JULY

The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un dismissed the US's intent to resume diplomacy on North Korea's denuclearisation, as she urged Washington to accept her country as a nuclear weapons state and find a new approach to restart talks.

US President Donald Trump has recently bragged of his personal ties with Kim Jong Un and expressed hopes of restarting nuclear diplomacy between them. Their high-stakes diplomacy in 2018-19 during Trump's first term unravelled after failed nuclear talks. Kim has since been modernising and expanding his nuclear arsenal.

Kim Yo Jong said she doesn't deny the personal relationship between her brother and Trump "is not bad." But she said if their personal relations are to serve the purpose of North Korea's denuclearisation, North Korea would view it as "nothing but a mockery."

"If the US fails to accept the changed reality and persists in the failed past, a meeting will remain as a hope' of the US side," Kim Yo Jong said. She said it would be "advisable to seek another way of contact."

Kim Yo Jong is widely believed to be North Korea's second-most powerful person after her brother. *—PTI*

Trump stopped liking Epstein over poaching staff

WASHINGTON, 28 JULY

US President Donald Trump said that he ended his friendship with Jeffrey Epstein and threw the disgraced financier out of his private club in Florida after Epstein betrayed him by hiring people who had worked for him.

The White House had recently previously offered a different explanation for the falling-out. Steven Cheung, the White House Communications Director, said last week: "The President kicked him out of his club for being a creep."

Trump spoke at his golf property in Turnberry, Scotland, as he sat with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Asked to explain why the relationship had faltered, Trump said, "he did something that was inappropriate."

"He stole people that worked for me. I said, don't ever do that again.' He did it again, and I threw him out of the place, persona non grata," Trump said.

Trump is also set to open a new golf course bearing his name in Scotland on Tuesday, capping a five-day foreign trip. *—PTI*

'Trump met Melania through Epstein'

Trump's biographer Michael Wolff suggested that the President may have met his wife Melania Trump through Epstein. Wolff said Melania was "very involved" in Epstein's social scene. "She's introduced by a model agent, both of whom Trump and Epstein are involved with," Wolff reportedly said. In response, White House Communications Director Steven Cheung said, "Wolff is a lying sack of sh** and has been proven to be a fraud". Melania, meanwhile, said in her memoir that she met Trump at Manhattan's Kit Kat Club.

FLIGHT CALLS 'MAYDAY' AFTER TAKE-OFF IN US

WASHINGTON, 29 JULY

A mid-air scare occurred last week involving a United Airlines Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, operated on Flight UA108 bound for Munich, which suffered a critical engine failure shortly after departing from Washington Dulles Airport on 25th July.

The incident transpired as the aircraft climbed to 5,000 feet, prompting the crew to declare a "MAYDAY". Following the engine malfunction, the pilots worked closely with air traffic controllers to navigate a safe emergency landing.

FlightAware data revealed the aircraft was airborne for 158 minutes, circling northwest of Washington in a holding pattern to safely dump fuel. During this time, the pilots requested clearance from ATC to manage weight by discharging fuel while maintaining an altitude of 6,000 feet.

Once fuel dumping was complete, the crew was granted permission to land using an Instrument Landing System (ILS) approach on Runway 19 Centre. Upon touchdown, the Dreamliner was unable to taxi on its own power. *—Agencies*

30 killed in heavy rain, floods in Beijing

BEIJING, 29 JULY

Authorities in Beijing have launched all-out disaster relief and rescue operations after a fresh spell of intense rainstorms left 30 people dead, damaging roads, disrupting power supply, and prompting mass evacuation.

The deaths occurred in Beijing's northern mountainous districts, with 28 in Miyun and two in Yanqing, according to local authorities.

7 DIE IN ROMANIA

Torrential rainstorms also hit Romania overnight and into Monday, triggering flash floods in the country's northeast and killing at least three people, officials said.

Hundreds were forced to leave their homes as Romania's rescue services deployed in the hard-hit counties of Neamt and Suceava. Authorities said that 890 people were evacuated from Neamt.

In the country's the Danube Delta, another four people, including a child, were drowned when a recreational boat capsized.

FLOODS IN PAK PUNJAB

In Pakistan, floodwaters from the Indus and Chenab rivers inundated over a dozen villages in Punjab province, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate. *—Agencies*

People rest inside a metro station, which serves as a bomb shelter, during an air raid alert in Kyiv, Ukraine on Monday PHOTO: PTI

Russia air strikes kill 21 people in Ukraine

KYIV, 29 JULY

Russian glide bombs and missiles struck a Ukrainian prison and a medical facility overnight, killing at least 21 people, officials said on Tuesday, as Russia kept up its bombardment of civilian areas despite US President Donald Trump's threat to punish it with sanctions and tariffs unless it stops.

The Russian airstrike on the prison in Ukraine's southeastern Zaporizhzhia region killed at least 17 inmates and wounded more than 80 others, officials said.

In the Dnipro region, authorities reported at least four people were killed and eight injured.

Trump had given Russian President Vladimir Putin maximum 12 days to stop the killing in Ukraine after three years of war, moving up a 50-day deadline he had given the Russian leader two weeks ago. The move meant Trump wants peace efforts to make progress by Aug 7-9.

Trump has repeatedly rebuked Putin for talking about ending the war but continuing to bombard Ukrainian civilians. But the Kremlin hasn't changed its tactics.

The Kremlin pushed back, however, with a top Putin lieutenant warned Trump against "playing the ultimatum game with Russia." *—PTI*

S'pore warns of increased threat due to extremism

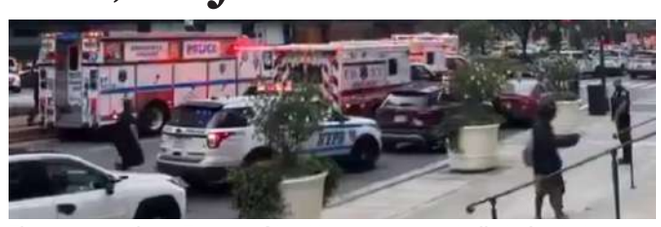
SINGAPORE, 29 JULY

Singapore's Internal Security Department (ISD) has issued a warning regarding the nation's elevated terror threat, citing a surge in diverse extremist ideologies and the misuse of advancing technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) for spreading radical narratives. The ISD's Singapore Terrorism Threat Assessment Report 2025 notes that "a volatile global landscape arising from developments such as the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and continued traction of radical narratives" has exacerbated the spread of extremism.

The report also revealed a concerning rise in online radicalisation, particularly among the youth, with platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram, Reddit, and gaming networks like Discord facilitating the dissemination of extremist content. From July 2024 to June 2025, eight self-radicalised Singaporeans were charged under the Internal Security Act, influenced by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, pro-ISIS ideologies, and far-right extremism. Notably, half of these cases involved individuals aged 20 or under. The ISD emphasised the need for increased cooperation between the public and private sectors to ensure a safer online environment. *—PTI*

TARGETING THE NFL

Gunman kills 4, self at NYC tower



The gunman, Shane Tamura of Las Vegas, was reportedly trying to target the NFL offices, before he killed himself PHOTOS: X

NEW YORK, 29 JULY

A man carrying a rifle killed four people at a New York City office tower Monday, including an off-duty New York City police officer, and wounded a fifth before taking his own life.

The gunman, Shane Tamura, of Las Vegas, was reportedly triyng to target the NFL offices, before he killed himself. He had a documented mental health history, police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said.

"We are working to understand why he targeted this particular location."

Another man was seriously injured and remains in critical condition. *—PT*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Gold falls by ₹200 to ₹97,820/10g

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

Gold prices fell Rs 200 to Rs 97,820 per 10g in the national capital on Tuesday due to persistent selling by stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Gold of 99.9 per cent purity had finished at Rs 98,020 per 10g on Monday. In the local markets, gold of 99.5 per cent purity extended losses for the fifth straight day, falling Rs 200 to Rs 97,550 per 10g (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday. It had ended at Rs 97,750 per 10g in the previous market session. However, silver prices remained flat at Rs 1,13,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday. Meanwhile, spot gold rose USD 9.48, or 0.29 per cent, to USD 3,324.11 per ounce in the international markets. *—PTI*

Rupee falls by 12P, closes at 86.82 against US dollar

MUMBAI, 29 JULY

The rupee depreciated 12 paise to close at 86.82 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by a jump in the US dollar index and a surge in crude oil prices. Forex traders said month-end dollar demand from Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and importers further pressurised the rupee. Moreover, investors remained on the sidelines ahead of the US Federal Reserve and Bank of Japan's monetary policy decision this week. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 86.76 against the greenback and touched an intra-day low of 86.92 against the greenback. At the end of Tuesday's trading session, the local unit settled at 86.82 (provisional), down 12 paise over its previous closing price. On Monday, the rupee had settled at 86.70 against the dollar. *—PTI*

MCX announces launch of cardamom futures

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

The Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) has officially launched futures contracts for cardamom to improve price discovery and facilitate better price risk management. Trading commenced on 29 July, offering contracts expiring in August, September, October, and November 2025. Each compulsory delivery contract represents 100 kg of cardamom, with prices based on ex-Vandanmedu rates from Idukki district, Kerala. MCX Managing Director and CEO Praveena Rai stated, "We...extend our product portfolio to serve the needs of spice growers and industry and support the government's vision of a digitally enabled, farmer-inclusive agri-economy." *—PTI*

Over 15 nations to join International Drone Expo

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

More than 300 companies coming over than 15 countries will showcase their technological innovations, particularly variants of drones and AI models, during the two-day International Police Expo and International Drone Expo beginning in the national capital on Thursday. The event will highlight revolutionary, cutting-edge technologies and solutions – from metallurgy, drones, AI models, and weapons & ammunition to armoured vehicles, security vehicles, and autonomous control systems – designed for the global policing and homeland security sector, a statement said. Electronics Corporation of India Ltd will participate in the event. SSS Defence will display its advanced weapons, ammunition, and autonomous control technologies-epitomising the essence of "Make in India for the World." *—PTI*

TCS market valuation down by ₹28,149 cr

The drop comes two days after the company announced plans to lay off 2% employees

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has lost Rs 28,148.72 crore from its market valuation in two days after the company announced that it will lay off about 12,000 employees of its global workforce this year.

On Tuesday, the bellwether stock declined 0.73 per cent to settle at Rs 3,056.55 apiece at the BSE. During the day, it dropped 1.23 per cent to Rs 3,041.

On the NSE, it dipped 0.72 per cent to Rs 3,057.

Shares of TCS had declined nearly 2 per cent on Monday.

The stock has lost 2.48 per cent in two trading days.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of TCS eroded by Rs 28,148.72 crore to Rs 11,05,886.54 crore in two days.

India's largest IT services firm TCS is set to lay off about 2 per cent, or 12,261 employees, of its global workforce this year, with the majority of those impacted belonging to middle and senior grades.

The market capitalisation of TCS eroded by Rs 28,148.72 crore to Rs 11,05,886.54 crore in two days PHOTO: ANI

As of June 30, 2025, the TCS workforce stood at 6,13,069. It increased its workforce by 5,000 in the recently concluded June quarter.

The move is part of the company's broader strategy to become a "future-ready organisation", focusing on investments in technology, AI deployment, market expansion, and workforce realignment, TCS said in a statement.

TCS will provide appropriate benefits, outplacement, counselling, and support to the impacted employees, it added

The move comes at a time when India's top IT services companies have delivered single-digit revenue growth in Q1FY26, capping off a somewhat sobering June quarter as macroeconomic instability and geopolitical tensions weighed on global tech demand and delayed client decision-making.

Sources said that the company amid its layoff, will likely pause the annual salary increments of its employee along with employing senior, experienced individuals. *—Agencies*

TCS CEO's ₹26 crore pay package sparks debate

BENGALURU, 29 JULY

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced plans to reduce its workforce by 2 per cent, affecting approximately 12,000 employees, primarily in middle and senior management, by FY26. This announcement has sparked controversy, especially concerning the salary of TCS CEO K. Krithivasan, who earned Rs 26.52 crore in FY25, including a base salary of Rs 1.39 crore and Rs 23 crore in commission. Critics on social media questioned the ethics of high executive compensation amidst layoffs, with one user stating, "Their lives won't be terrible at Rs 2.5 crore pay vs Rs 3 crore... What happens to the lives of 12,000 is of no consequence." In response, Krithivasan clarified that layoffs are driven by skill mismatches rather than cost-cutting, stating, "We think we have not been able to deploy someone." Others defended the CEO's salary, insisting TCS is not a charity. *—Agencies*

SENSEX GAINS 447 POINTS

Market bounces back after three-day decline

MUMBAI, 29 JULY

The benchmark BSE Sensex rebounded nearly 447 points on Tuesday, ending a three-day losing streak, driven by value buying in blue-chip stocks like Reliance Industries and financial shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex surged by 446.93 points, or 0.55 per cent, concluding the day at 81,337.95. It reached an intra-day high of 81,429.88, up 538.86 points, or 0.66 per cent. Meanwhile, the 50-share NSE Nifty rose by 140.20 points, or 0.57 per cent, to settle at 24,821.10.

Among the Sensex constituents, Reliance Industries led the charge, increasing by 2.21 per cent. Other notable gainers included HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel, and Tata Motors. Asian Paints, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, Maruti, and Bajaj Finance also contributed to the rally. Conversely, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan, and ITC underperformed.

"Amidst lingering uncertainties over ongoing US-India trade negotiations, the domestic equity market staged a modest recovery from intra-day lows," remarked Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited. He added that investor sentiment remains cautious ahead of significant global events, including policy decisions from the US Federal Reserve.

PHOTO: PTI

- The Sensex reached an intra-day high of 81,429.88, up 538.86 points, or 0.66 per cent. The 50-share NSE Nifty rose by 140.20 points, or 0.57 per cent, to settle at 24,821.1

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 1.10 per cent, and midcap stocks rallied by 0.84 per cent, with all BSE sectoral indices closing higher. "Indian equities rebounded sharply on Tuesday as value buying and easing volatility lifted sentiment," said Gaurav Garg from Lemonn Markets Desk.

In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng indices closed lower, while South Korea's Kospi and Shanghai's SSE ended positively. *—PTI*

NSE profit after tax rises 14%; total income drops 3%

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Tuesday reported a 14 per cent rise in its consolidated profit after tax to Rs 2,924 crore for three months ended June 2025.

It had posted a profit after tax of Rs 2,567 crore in the same quarter preceding fiscal year.

In a statement, NSE said that excluding the gains from sales of investment in subsidiaries/ associates, income tax refund and Sebi settlement fees, the normalised consolidated profit before tax for the first quarter of FY26 stood at Rs 3,683 crore.

The bourse's total income dropped 3 per cent to Rs 4,798 crore in the quarter under review against Rs 4,950 crore in the April-June quarter of FY25.

The total expenditure for Q1FY26 decreased by 31 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,053 crore.

The total expenditure for Q1FY26 decreased by 31 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,053 crore PHOTO: ANI

During Q1FY26, NSE's contribution to the exchequer was Rs 14,331 crore, which comprised STT/CTT (Securities Transaction Tax/ Commodity Transaction Tax) of Rs 12,338 crore, stamp duty of Rs 875 crore, Sebi fees of Rs 265 crore, income tax of Rs 338 crore and GST of Rs 515 crore.

Out of Rs 12,338 crore contribution from STT/CTT, 54 per cent is from the cash market segment, and the remaining 46 per cent is from the equity derivatives segment.

On a standalone basis, NSE's net profit stood at Rs 2,409 crore and total income at Rs 4,243 crore for the quarter under review. *—PTI*

Sona Comstar refutes claims by late chief's mother

BENGALURU, 29 JULY

Sona BLW Precision Forgings Ltd (Sona Comstar) has strongly refuted allegations made by Rani Kapur, mother of late chairman Sunjay Kapur, regarding company affairs.

In a statement dated 28 July, the firm clarified that Rani Kapur has held no role direct or indirect since at least 2019 and is neither a shareholder, director, nor officer. As such, she has "no locus standi" in company matters.

The company dismissed her claims of being coerced into signing documents after her son's death as "completely baseless and legally untenable". It reiterated that Sona Comstar is not a family-run business, highlighting its independent and professionally governed board.

The shares closed at Rs 467.25 on the NSE, down 0.47 per cent. *—Agencies*

Lenskart files papers for ₹2,150 crore IPO

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

Lenskart Solutions Ltd, an omni-channel eyewear retailer, has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi seeking its approval to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The Gurugram-based company's IPO involves raising Rs 2,150 crore through fresh issuance of equity shares. Besides, promoters and investors would offload 13.22 crore equity shares, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed on Monday.

As a part of the OFS, promoters Peyush Bansal, Neha Bansal, Amit Chaudhary and Sumeet Kapahi; and investors SVF II Lightbulb (Cayman) Ltd, Schroders Capital Private Equity Asia Mauritius Ltd, PI Opportunities Fund - II, Macritchie Investments Pte Ltd, Kedaara Capital Fund II LLP, and Alpha Wave Ventures LP, would offload shares.

Lenskart aims to use the proceeds for various strategic initiatives, including Rs 272.6 crore for setting up new stores in India and Rs 591.44 crore for payments related to lease, rent, and license agreements for these CoCo stores.

Aditya IPO fully subscribed

Meanwhile, the initial public offer of Aditya Infotech Ltd, which offers video security and surveillance products under 'CP Plus' brand, got fully subscribed within hours of opening for bidding on Tuesday.

The three-day sale received bids for 1,18,12,438 shares against 1,12,23,759 shares on offer, translating into 1.05 times subscription, according to data available with the NSE till 13:36 hours. *—PTI*

India's household spending set to rise: Study

MUMBAI, 29 JULY

Household consumption in India is set to improve over the next two to three quarters, led by a revival in rural demand, according to Swiss brokerage UBS Securities. The report attributes this to softer inflation boosting purchasing power, a positive crop outlook due to good monsoons, and a USD 20 billion welfare push targeting women.

While rural activity is gaining traction, a broad-based recovery remains some way off, as rural consumption accounts for less than half of total household demand, UBS's chief India economist Tanvee Gupta Jain noted.

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Mass-market rural demand remains muted, though premium product categories continue to perform well.

Real rural wage growth, adjusted for food inflation, reached a six-year high of 4.5 per cent in the June quarter, even as agricultural terms of trade worsened due to falling food prices.

Rural sentiment has improved, with two-wheeler and tractor sales rising 9 per cent and 35 per cent quarter-on-quarter, respectively, alongside strong FMCG sales.

In urban areas, consumption indicators such as passenger car sales and durable goods output declined, though sentiment held steady. *—PTI*

After CEO, three more quit Nayara Energy

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

Three directors and two senior executives, including the head of Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE), have resigned from Russian energy giant Rosneft-backed oil refiner Nayara Energy after the company was sanctioned by the European Union, sources aware of the matter said.

Victoria Cunningham, Avril Mary Anne Conroy and Jorg Tumat, who were on the board of directors of Nayara Energy, have resigned earlier this month, the sources said. Besides, Barbara Oberhauser, who was senior vice president and Head HSE, too has resigned.

The resignations follow chief executive Alessandro Des Dorides quitting the company shortly after the European Union imposed sanctions on Nayara as part of a new raft of measures against Russia over its war with Ukraine. An email sent to the company seeking reactions left unanswered. *—PTI*

6–11% salary hike likely in India Inc: TeamLease

MUMBAI, 29 JULY

- According to a TeamLease Services report, the projected hike ignals a broader realignment in India's job and wage landscape

Corporate India is expected to dole out average salary hike in the range of 6.2 per cent to 11.3 per cent this fiscal, as employers are reshaping their workforce strategies by focusing more on skill certification and incentive-led engagement, a report said on Tuesday.

According to a TeamLease Services report, the average salary hikes is projected to be in the range between 6.2 per cent and 11.3 per cent across industries, while some role-level salary increments are expected to reach 13.8 per cent.

"The projected salary growth, ranging from 6.2 per cent to 11.3 per cent, signals a broader realignment in India's job and wage landscape. As new-age industries scale rapidly, demand is shifting toward roles that combine technical capability with immediate business impact," TeamLease Services CEO - Staffing, Kartik Narayan said.

The report, based on inputs from 1,308 businesses across 23 industries and 20 cities, noted that the highest salary increments are expected in sectors such as EV and EV infrastructure (11.3 per cent), consumer durables (10.7 per cent), retail (10.7 per cent), and NBFCs (10.4 per cent). *—PTI*

ASSISTANT MANAGER TO CEO

Shailesh Jejurikar elevated to P&G CEO

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

American FMCG major Procter & Gamble Company has named India-born Shailesh Jejurikar as its next Chief Executive Officer, who will lead the consumer goods multinational from 1 January, 2026.

Jejurikar, 58, who joined Procter & Gamble (P&G) as an assistant brand manager in 1989, will replace Jon Moeller as part of a top leadership transition, according to a statement from the Cincinnati, Ohio-based company.

He has been serving as Chief Operating Officer of P&G for over last six years and is also a board member of vertical transportation systems maker Otis Elevator Co.

"Shailesh Jejurikar...will succeed Jon Moeller as Procter & Gamble's President and Chief Executive Officer, effective 1 January, 2026. The Board has also nominated Jejurikar to stand for election as a Director at the annual shareholder meeting in October 2025," a statement from P&G said.

Jejurikar joined Procter & Gamble as an assistant brand manager in 1989 PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

- Jejurikar has been the Chief Operating Officer of P&G for over last six years and is also a board member of vertical transportation systems maker Otis Elevator Co

He helped build several of P&G's core businesses, including global Fabric Care and Home Care in regions including North America, Europe, Asia and Latin America. He has also helped lead the development of the company's renewed strategies and operational results in the Supply Chain, Information Technology and Global Business Services.

P&G is a leading FMCG company in India market also, operating with brands including, Ariel, Tide, Whisper, Olay, Gillette, Ambipur, Pampers, Pantene, Oral-B, Head & Shoulders and Vicks.

Jejurikar, an alumnus of IIM Lucknow, is the latest to join an elite league of India-born C-suite executives at global giants. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Eng's Sciver-Brunt displaces Smriti as No.1 ODI batter

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt displaced star India batter Smriti Mandhana from No. 1 spot in the latest ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings, but Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues made significant strides. Sciver-Brunt, who previously held the top position in 2023, regained the slot on the back of a series-high 160 runs across three ODIs against India. Mandhana dropped one spot to second after totalling 115 runs across the three games. However, India skipper Harmanpreet leaped from 21st to 11th, while middle-order batter Rodrigues progressed to 13 in the chart from 15. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Santner to lead NZ in first test against Zimbabwe

AUCKLAND, 29 JULY

Mitchell Santner has been named the 32nd captain of New Zealand's Test cricket side as regular skipper Tom Latham is sidelined by a shoulder injury for the first Test against Zimbabwe. Latham sustained the injury while fielding in a domestic T20 match in England and will remain with the squad, hoping to recover for the second Test. Santner, fresh from leading the Blackcaps to T20I Tri-Series victory in Harare, boasts 1,066 runs and 74 wickets from 30 Tests. Head coach Rob Walter expressed disappointment over Latham's injury but is confident in Santner. "We're hopeful that he'll recover in time... Mitch did a wonderful job with the T20 squad," Walter stated. The 1st Test squad includes Tom Blundell, Devon Conway, and Ajaz Patel among others. *—ANI*

Indian swimmers fail to make a mark at WC

SINGAPORE, 29 JULY

Indian swimmers faced disappointment at the World Aquatics Championships, with none reaching the heats for the third consecutive day. In the 200m butterfly, experienced swimmer Sajan Prakash finished a lacklustre 24th with a time of 1.59.33s, failing to secure a spot in the semifinals. This follows his 43rd-place finish in the 200m freestyle on Monday, marking the end of his campaign. Aryan Nehra placed 23rd in the men's 800m freestyle, clocking 8.21.30s, well below the top eight needed to progress to the final. Nehra had previously recorded a personal best of 8.00.76s in 2023. Additionally, SP Likith rounded off the Indian efforts by finishing 50th in the men's 50m backstroke with a time of 28.45s, concluding his competition. *—PTI*

GAMBHIR SPARS WITH OVAL CURATORS

Coach says the curator can't tell him what to do

India's head coach Gautam Gambhir and support staff during their argument with the Oval cricket stadium groundsman ahead of the fifth Test match between India and England, in London, Tuesday **PHOTO: PTI**

LONDON, 29 JULY

India head coach Gautam Gambhir was involved in a heated exchange of words with the Oval's chief curator Lee Fortis and was heard telling him "you don't tell us what we need to do" while pointing fingers at the groundstaff.

The Oval will host the fifth and final Test between India and England from Thursday, and the Indian team has hit the ground running two days after staging a remarkable comeback to draw the fourth match in Manchester.

India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak said the altercation took place after the visitors were asked to stand 2.5m from the wicket.

"One of ground staff came and said (that we were required to) stand 2.5 metre from the wicket and 'go outside the rope and see the wicket'. I have never seen something like that," Kotak told the media later.

During the training session, videos that have now gone viral on social media clearly showed an upset Gambhir getting into a verbal altercation with the curator, prompting Kotak to intervene and douse the situation.

The tiff started when Fortis told Gambhir: "I will have to report this" and to that the Indian head coach replied rather tersely: "You go and report whatever you want to report."

Gambhir turned back again to tell Fortis that he should not be telling his side "what to do."

"You can't tell us what to do. You are just one of the groundsmen, nothing beyond," Gambhir said.

Kotak stepped in at this point, took the Englishman to a different corner and said: "We won't damage anything."

The two appeared to be arguing over the conditions of the pitches for practice.

Fortis and Gambhir then went their separate ways. While walking from the field to his room, Fortis said: "It's a big game, and he (Gambhir) is a bit touchy."

Kotak added that India would not be filing a com-

Rest Archer, bring in Atkinson: Broad

LONDON, 29 JULY

Premier England fast bowler Jofra Archer, who made his much-anticipated comeback to England Test team after four years at Lord's, should be rested for the series-deciding fifth rubber to manage his workload ahead of the Ashes, feels former pacer Stuart Broad.

Archer was in red-hot form, picking a wicket with his third ball and finishing with a match-haul of five wickets in his comeback Test at Lord's. He played in the just-concluded fourth Test at Manchester as well.

"We can't not have Archer for four years, bring him back and then bowl him into the ground and not see him for another four years," Broad said .

The hosts also have Gus Atkinson, Sam Cook, Josh Tongue and Jamie Overton in their ranks for the final Test.

"I think Atkinson has to play. I know he has not had any workload, but we need to see him," Broad added. *—PTI*

Arshdeep set to make his Test debut: Report

LONDON, 29 JULY

Indian seamer Arshdeep Singh is reportedly set to debut in the Oval, as captain Shibman Gill and Gautam Gambhir are set to take a major gamble in the fifth and final Test to level the series. The match is scheduled to begin Thursday (31 July).

The left-arm pacer, who received his maiden Test call-up this series, was ruled out of the previous ties after he sustained a blow to his hand during practice before the Manchester Test.

He was seen practicing under the watchful eyes of bowling coach Morne Morkel, on Tuesday.

Sources have said Arshdeep is debut alongside Mohammad Siraj and Akash Deep, although there has been no official confirmation. Bumrah has played in his allocated three Tests as a part of his workload management in the ongoing series. *— Agencies*

Arshdeep Singh **PHOTO: PTI**

Aus' Caribbean cricket tour ends with a perfect 8-0

ST. KITTS, 29 JULY

Australia completed a sweep of the Twenty20 international cricket series with a three-wicket victory over West Indies to finish its Caribbean tour with an 8-0 record.

Australia went into the last game on a 7-match winning streak following the 3-0 test series sweep and victories in the first four of the T20 internationals.

After winning the toss for the eighth straight time, Australia sent the home team in to bat and dismissed West Indies for 170 two balls short of the allotted 20 overs on Monday night.

Shimron Hetmyer's 52 from 31 balls and Sherfane Rutherford's 35 off 17 propped up the innings but the target wasn't big enough to put genuine pressure on the Australian batters.

Ben Dharshuis took 3-41 and Nathan Ellis finished with 2-32, while spinner Adam Zampa returned 1-20 in his 100th T20 international.

The Australians reached 173-7 with 18 balls to spare, with a 63-run fifth-wicket partnership between Mitchell Owen (37 off 17 deliveries) and Cameron Green (32 off 18) stabilising the innings.

West Indies had Australia in trouble in the opening powerplay with Jason Holder and Alzarri Joseph taking two wickets apiece, but the runs kept flowing. *—PTI*

Top: The Australian cricket team after sweeping the West Indies 5-0; Bottom; Australian team after winning the T-20 series 3-0 **PHOTO: X**

Tough mind and will: Polgar praises Divya

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

The legendary Susan Polgar has attributed Divya Deshmukh's stunning World Cup title triumph to her unyielding will to succeed and mental toughness after the youngster created another significant moment for Indian chess.

In an all-Indian final, 19-year-old Divya humbled the much more experienced and higher-rated Koneru Humpy in tiebreakers in Batumi, Georgia on Monday.

Divya thus qualified for the 2026 Candidates Tournament and became the 88th Grandmaster of India after having entered the competition as a dark horse.

"First of all, congratulations to Divya for this historic feat. Well done. Secondly, even though she may not be the pre-tournament favourite to win this World Cup, or the strongest, but she had what others did not, the will to win and mental toughness," Susan said.

The 56-year-old Hungarian-American Grandmaster added, "There were games where she (Divya) was in trouble, and there were games she failed to convert. But none of it mattered. She continued to fight hard with no fear! Her strong nerves carried her through the finish line."

The Maharashtra girl's triumph also made her only the fourth Indian female Grandmaster after Humpy, Harika Dronavalli and R. Vaishali, and the 44th woman GM in the world. *—PTI*

India's chess player Divya Deshmukh during the FIDE Women's World Cup 2025 final match tiebreaks against compatriot Koneru Humpy, in Batumi, Georgia **PHOTO: PTI**

Anish, Nihal qualify for Esports WC

RIYADH, 29 JULY

Grand Masters Anish Giri, Levon Aronian, Nihal Sarin, and Javokhir Sindarov have taken the final four spots in the $1.5 million main chess event of the 2025 Esports World Cup.

Giri won in the most dramatic fashion, flagging GM Hans Niemann in a losing position, while Aronian fought back from losing to Giri in the first match of the day to defeat GM Andrey Esipenko in the last. Niemann dramatically banged the table after being bested.

Nihal qualified first by beating Esipenko in the Winner's bracket, while Sindarov came from behind to defeat Niemann.

They now join 12 invited players, including Magnus Carlsen, Hikaru Nakamura and Alireza Firouzja, in the 16-player tournament starting Tuesday.

Ahead of the event, Carlsen praised Nihal. "My mouse speed is not necessarily the best, but I play fast and well enough that it doesn't usually bother me," said Carlsen. "(But) you could run into really dangerous matchups here. We saw in the qualifier how incredibly good Nihal is with very little time on the clock. There could be players like him and Alireza." *—Agencies*

Satwik-Chirag returns to top 10 in BWF rankings

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

Asian Games gold medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty returned to top 10 in the BWF mens' doubles World Rankings, climbing three spots following their semifinal finish at the China Open last week.

The former world No. 1 duo, now ranked 10th, lost to the Malaysian pair of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik 13-21, 17-21 in the semifinals.

This was their third semifinal appearance on the BWF Tour this season.

The Indian pair had reclaimed the world No. 1 ranking after the title win at the Thailand Open last year.

In men's singles, top-ranked Indian Lakshya Sen moved up two places to No. 17 with 54,442 points, just ahead of China's Zhenxiang Wang. HS Prannoy also climbed two places to reach world No. 33 with 40,336 points.

In women's singles, 17-year-old Unnati Hooda rose four spots to a career-best No. 31 after her landmark pre-quarterfinal win over PV Sindhu last week. *—PTI*

Security manager held for stealing 261 IPL jerseys

MUMBAI, 29 JULY

A security manager has been accused of stealing 261 players' jerseys from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) merchandise store at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium. The Mumbai Police reported that the theft occurred on 13 June, with the formal complaint lodged on 17 July. Hemang Bharat Kumar Amin, a BCCI employee, filed the complaint against Farooq Aslam Khan, aged 46, alleging that Khan unlawfully entered the merchandise store and stole jerseys from prominent IPL teams including Delhi Capitals, Mumbai Indians, and Chennai Super Kings, among others. The total value of the stolen jerseys is estimated at Rs 6,52,500. *—Agencies*

ROAD TO FIFA

India to face Japan, Vietnam in Asia Cup

NEW DELHI, 29 JULY

India were on Tuesday drawn with powerhouse Japan, former champions Chinese Taipei and Vietnam in Group C of the AFC Women's Asian Cup, the continent's showpiece tournament, to be held in Australia next year.

The draw ceremony for the 12-team tournament to be run from 1 to 21 March, 2026 was held at the Sydney Town Hall with Indian midfielder Sangita Basfore being one of the three draw assistants. The 12 teams were divided into three groups of four teams each.

The Blue Tigresses will begin their campaign with a match against Vietnam on 4 March, 2026, at the Perth Rectangular Stadium. India will then face Japan on 7 March at the same venue, before squaring off against Chinese Taipei on 10 March at the Western Sydney Stadium.

The top two teams from each group and the two best third-placed sides will advance to the quarter-finals. The four semi-finalists will book their tickets to the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil, while the losing sides from the quarter-finals will advance to the playoffs, where two more spots will be at stake.

Women's World Cup winners in 2011, Japan are the highest-ranked Asian team in the FIFA chart at seventh. They won the Women's Asian Cup titles in 2014 and 2018 but were denied a hat-trick after losing to eventual champions China in the semi-finals in the 2022 edition held in India inside a Covid-19 bubble.

Vietnam, ranked 37th, topped the play-off round among losing quarterfinalists in the 2022 Women's Asian Cup in India to make it to the 2023 Women's World Cup.

Chinese Taipei, currently ranked 42nd, won the last of their three AFC Women's Asian Cup titles in 1980.

India are currently ranked 70th in the world, the lowest in the group. *—PTI*

The Blue Tigresses will begin their campaign with a match against Vietnam on 4 March, 2026, at the Perth Rectangular Stadium **PHOTO: X**

Genie Bouchard wins in Montreal; Osaka advances

MONTREAL, 29 JULY

Genie Bouchard breathed new life into her tennis career with a win at the National Bank Open, defeating Emiliana Arango 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 in the first round in Montreal on Monday. The Canadian, who announced her retirement following this hometown tournament, notched her first WTA Tour victory since 2023—her 300th overall. "I told my family that if I won, I would come out of retirement," she said, adding, "I felt like the old Genie out there." Bouchard, now set to face No. 17 seed Belinda Bencic, had largely switched to pickleball, playing only once this season prior to receiving a wild card for Montreal.

In other matches, Emma Raducanu continued her strong form, defeating Elena-Gabriela Ruse 6-2, 6-4, just two days after her semifinal exit in Washington. Naomi Osaka, in her first tournament since parting ways with coach Patrick Mouratoglou, defeated Ariana Arseneault 6-4, 6-2. Meanwhile, 2022 champion Pablo Carreno Busta opened his tournament by beating Canadian wild-card Liam Draxl 2-6, 6-4, 6-4. *—PTI*